

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

4 v.

13 Cr. 43 (LAP)

5 WILLIAM COSME,

6 Defendant.

7  
8 New York, N.Y.  
9 March 15, 2017  
10:00 a.m.

10 Before:

11 HON. LORETTA A. PRESKA,

12  
13 District Judge  
and a jury

14 APPEARANCES

15 JOON H. KIM  
16 United States Attorney for the  
Southern District of New York

17 MARTIN BELL  
NOAH SOLOWIEJCZYK  
Assistant United States Attorneys

18 MARK S. DeMARCO  
19 Attorney for Defendant

20 ALSO PRESENT: MELISSA BERESFORD, FBI  
21 RYAN REDEL, FBI  
22 BIBI HAYAKAWA, Paralegal  
23 SAMUEL LACHOW, Paralegal  
24  
25

1 (Trial resumed; jury not present)

2 THE COURT: We are still waiting on one juror who said  
3 there were train issues, but that should resolve itself  
4 relatively quickly.

5 I have an e-mail from Mr. Cosme dated today, March 15,  
6 at 12:01 a.m.

7 Mr. Cosme says that Mr. Solowiejczyk's parents were in  
8 the gallery making unusual derogatory remarks upon Mr. Cosme,  
9 provoking Mr. Cosme, and asking me to disallow their presence.

10 No. 1, I saw no evidence of any remarks or any  
11 interaction by Mr. Solowiejczyk's parents with Mr. Cosme.

12 Second, the Sixth Amendment guarantees a right to a  
13 public trial. I will not disallow his parents. What I did  
14 hear, however, on Monday, was Mr. Cosme's interaction with  
15 Mr. DeMarco saying out loud such items as, do you want to be a  
16 fucking tough guy in court? That needs to stop, particularly  
17 in the hearing of the jurors.

18 Mr. Cosme asserts that Mr. DeMarco showed up two hours  
19 late the day of trial. It was not two hours. Mr. DeMarco  
20 called and said that there was an overturned tractor trailer on  
21 the FDR Drive.

22 Mr. Cosme asserts that Mr. DeMarco "was verifiably  
23 caught fraternizing with jurors in hallways." As is reflected  
24 in the record, Mr. DeMarco indicated that a juror asked him  
25 where the restroom was in the hallway and he pointed to it.

1 Mr. Cosme asserts that Mr. DeMarco did reek of  
2 alcohol. I did not find that to be so.

3 Mr. Cosme indicates that Mr. DeMarco interviewed no  
4 witnesses in the case, even when he was lead counsel prior to  
5 now. A lawyer's decision as to which witnesses to interview is  
6 the lawyer's job and not the client's job. And I note that the  
7 first couple of witnesses called by the government were  
8 witnesses who identified documents which, in any event,  
9 probably would have been stipulated to had counsel been  
10 representing Mr. Cosme at the time.

11 Mr. Cosme goes on to say that Mr. DeMarco's opening  
12 statement was inconsistent with facts, records, witnesses, case  
13 trial plan. Mr. DeMarco failed to engage in trial based on  
14 trial plan, facts. Again, counsel's opening statement and  
15 counsel's trial strategy are none of the Court's business, and  
16 that is the decision of counsel and not of the client.

17 Mr. Cosme goes on to say: "AUSA, CJA still disobey  
18 the series of appellate court withdraw orders and failed to  
19 recognize who the circuit declared as Mr. Cosme's counsel. The  
20 disrupter is not Mr. Cosme. It is AUSA, CJA, retained counsel  
21 ignoring appellate court orders."

22 As I noted on Monday, this is an issue that has been  
23 decided and is not open for discussion now.

24 Mr. Cosme goes on to say: "CJA DeMarco in court 2X  
25 said "FU" to Mr. Cosme in front of jurors, gallery, in open

1 court."

2 It was not my observation or within my hearing that  
3 that took place. Mr. DeMarco will continue to represent  
4 Mr. Cosme. I reiterate my finding of Monday that based on  
5 Mr. Cosme's conduct prior to Monday and certainly his conduct  
6 Monday, he is likely to continue to be disruptive and not to  
7 participate in the proceedings in a manner consistent with  
8 representing himself.

9 I guess the witness is ready to take the stand as soon  
10 as the jurors are here, right?

11 MR. BELL: Yes, your Honor. One procedural thing. I  
12 think that that version of Mr. Cosme's correspondence may be a  
13 bit different than one that we received last night. I wondered  
14 as a procedural matter if you are going to mark that as a court  
15 exhibit.

16 THE COURT: We will mark this as Court Exhibit 1.

17 MR. BELL: Thank you, your Honor.

18 THE DEFENDANT: Your Honor, I wanted to speak in  
19 regards to your findings on those e-mails.

20 As far as the counsel issue goes, it's my  
21 understanding that the jurisdiction of the Second Circuit  
22 trumps the district court's jurisdiction when it comes to  
23 counsel withdraws pursuant to local Rule 4.1(a), Federal Rule  
24 of Appellate Procedure.

25 THE COURT: Mr. Cosme, as I have mentioned to you on

1 numerous occasions, the counsel issue has been decided. You  
2 say you have retained counsel who is not here. That's between  
3 you and retained counsel. So we are not going to discuss the  
4 counsel issue any further.

5 THE DEFENDANT: Your Honor, respectfully, the counsel  
6 is not here because the district court substituted the retained  
7 active counsel with the CJA.

8 THE COURT: Mr. Cosme, I have never forbidden your  
9 retained counsel from being here.

10 THE DEFENDANT: When you substituted the active  
11 retained counsel preappellate mandate, preremand with CJA  
12 counsel, their excuse was, CJA counsel is counsel and we are  
13 not obligated to represent you under those conditions, and that  
14 was a discussion that counsel had with Martin Bell.

15 THE COURT: Mr. Cosme, I never prevented retained  
16 counsel from appearing. I was not party to that conversation.  
17 And your relations with retained counsel are between you and  
18 counsel. My only interest was that you were adequately  
19 represented. We have finished discussing this topic.

20 THE DEFENDANT: Your Honor, for the record, I do not  
21 consent to CJA counsel, as you know. I invoke my right to  
22 counsel of choice.

23 THE COURT: We finished discussing counsel, sir.

24 THE DEFENDANT: You have no objection to the  
25 interlocutory appeal?

1 THE COURT: It's not an appealable issue, sir, but of  
2 course you may file any interlocutory appeal if you want.

3 THE DEFENDANT: Your Honor, it's the same basis as the  
4 original interlocutory appeal was filed. The counsel of  
5 choice --

6 THE COURT: Without commenting on whether it is or it  
7 is not, file any piece of paper you want, sir.

8 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you, your Honor.

9 Your Honor, can I ask you another question?

10 THE COURT: Sir.

11 THE DEFENDANT: The indictments, both the superseding  
12 indictment and the original indictment, they both have  
13 forfeiture allegations. The allegations I guess include, but  
14 are not limited, to civil asset forfeiture statutes. And CJA  
15 DeMarco had indicated that he does not do civil litigation.  
16 And there was an open issue on the asset forfeiture on the S1,  
17 in addition to the underlying legal defects from the original  
18 indictment as it pertains to the forfeiture allegations. Are  
19 you opposed to me representing myself on the civil side of  
20 that?

21 THE COURT: I don't think that's an issue during the  
22 trial. And you will recall, Mr. Cosme, that the government  
23 agreed that the indictment that will be sent into the jury will  
24 have the forfeiture allegations deleted. Do you remember that?

25 THE DEFENDANT: That's a problem. That's one of the

problems. The problem with that is, you have an indictment or the charging document with an asset forfeiture in the charging section of the indictment. That being said and the fact that there was a prerequisite preindictment illegal judicial civil asset forfeiture and illegal seizure, warrantless seizure in this particular case, the grand jury from the original indictment and the S1 indictment and the trial jury is not going to be made aware of the truth about that particular issue.

THE COURT: That issue is not before the jury.

I see the jurors are here. May we bring them in, please. Let's get the witness.

(Jury present)

THE COURT: Would someone find out where the witness is, please.

We thought we were ready, but I was mistaken.

We continue, ladies and gentlemen, with the direct examination of Dr. Penland.

Mr. Solowiejczyk.

MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Thank you, your Honor.

THOMAS JAMES PENLAND, resumed.

DIRECT EXAMINATION (cont'd)

BY MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK:

Q. Good morning, Dr. Penland.

A. Good morning.

1 Q. I am going to direct you to Government Exhibit 108, which  
2 we were discussing when your testimony ended on Monday. That  
3 should be on the screen as well.

4 Dr. Penland, I am going to direct you to the first  
5 page of this exhibit, Bates No. 1120.

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Do you recall reviewing this page prior to your meeting in  
8 New York City with Mr. Cosme?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I want to direct you to the top center portion of the page.

11 Dr. Penland, focusing your attention on the top  
12 center, what kind of company did you believe Cosmo Dabi  
13 International was, based on your review of the website?

14 A. A global asset management company.

15 Q. And directing you to the second line there, Dabi, what did  
16 you understand that to mean?

17 A. Delivery above and beyond internationally.

18 Q. Where did you believe Cosmo Dabi International was located,  
19 based on your review of this website?

20 A. In New York, Wall Street area.

21 Q. I want to direct you to the bottom right portion of the  
22 page where it says NAV, Cosmo Dabi. What was your  
23 understanding of the volume of assets that Cosmo Dabi managed,  
24 based on your review of this website?

25 A. He was managing billions of dollars, U.S. dollars, in



1 assets.

2 Q. Directing you to what it says on the page --

3 A. It says 11 billion.

4 Q. Going into your meeting with Mr. Cosme, did you in fact  
5 believe he managed billions in assets?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Dr. Penland, in deciding ultimately whether to move forward  
8 with Cosmo Dabi as a source of financing, was it significant to  
9 your decision that you understood Cosmo Dabi managed billions  
10 of dollars in assets?

11 A. Very significant, yes.

12 Q. I want to direct your attention now to the middle right  
13 portion of the page where it says high-performance ROI. If you  
14 could just read that into the record for us, Dr. Penland.

15 A. High-performance ROI, track record. The family member ROI  
16 for ultra low risk programs which are also 100 percent  
17 principal protected have returned a consistent net 25 percent  
18 plus per annum over the past 10 consecutive years.

19 Q. Dr. Penland, based on your review of the Cosmo Dabi  
20 website, did you believe Cosmo Dabi had an established track  
21 record of strong return on investment?

22 A. I did, and I believed my principal was protected as well.

23 Q. In deciding whether your school was going to move forward  
24 with Cosmo Dabi as a source of financing, was it significant to  
25 your decision that you understood Cosmo Dabi had this

1 established track record?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. Can you elaborate on that?

4 A. Yes, sir. It was very important that he had a track record  
5 and that this was an important piece for us.

6 Q. I want to direct your attention to the center of this page  
7 where it reads references. Center bottom. You see here it  
8 says that Cosmo Dabi's client references include but are not  
9 limited to family members and families of royalty. Do you see  
10 that?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. With respect to the type of clients that Cosmo Dabi had,  
13 what, if anything, did you believe, based on your review of the  
14 website?

15 A. That he had -- he was a global player and powerful and was  
16 dealing with families of royalty around the world.

17 Q. What did you think of that? How did that make you feel  
18 about Cosmo Dabi?

19 A. He was significant and he was a world player.

20 Q. I am going to turn your attention to the next page, page 2.

21 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Mr. Lachow, if you could focus on  
22 the center of the text there.

23 Q. Dr. Penland, I am just going to ask you to read that into  
24 the record.

25 A. Cosmo Dabi International is primarily a family practice

with an internationally headquartered parent. Our main focus is private equity, family global private wealth, asset management for our own family members. SF and business consulting. Cosmo Dabi also engages the highest caliber financial operatives within the U.S. and abroad to accomplish desired family business objectives. The U.S. office is located on Wall Street, New York City. Cosmo Dabi also possesses top financial operatives and vast resources within Hong Kong, Russia, London, Geneva, Zurich, Greece, Abu Dhabi, Korea, Italy, and Monaco. Cosmo Dabi and Companies manage 11 billion plus assets under management of family U.S. and Swiss assets.

Q. Dr. Penland, focusing you on the sentence that reads Cosmo Dabi also possessed top financial operatives and vast resources within, and then it lists a whole number of places, what did you think when you saw this at the time you reviewed the website?

A. It was an international player, world player with asset management.

Q. Was the fact that he had international contacts relevant to you?

A. I thought he would maybe be interested in us and our school since we are an international school.

Q. Again, focusing you on the last sentence there, Cosmo Dabi and Companies manage \$11 billion in assets under management.

Was it your understanding that Cosmo Dabi had billions in

1 assets under management?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. I am going to direct your attention to the third page.

4 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Mr. Lachow, if you could focus on  
5 the section that reads maximum funding amounts.

6 Q. Dr. Penland, it says here there is no cap for international  
7 projects for qualified family members. What was your  
8 understanding of Cosmo Dabi's capability to fund your project  
9 based on your review of this document?

10 A. That he was very, very capable and that our project was  
11 fairly insignificant.

12 Q. Did you think that there would be any problem with him  
13 loaning you \$55 million, based on your review of the website?

14 A. No, not on the review of the website.

15 Q. Directing your attention to the section in the middle of  
16 the page that says references, do you see there it says, to be  
17 provided upon formal engagement. Did you have any concerns  
18 about the fact that Cosmo Dabi's references could only be  
19 provided to you after you had entered into a formal engagement?

20 A. Not really.

21 Q. Can you explain why not, Dr. Penland?

22 A. I assumed that was the practice and that we had -- the  
23 referencing for Mr. Cosme had come from my business  
24 administrator, who had a personal relative involved in the  
25 company introducing us to Mr. Cosme. So I just felt like this

1 was the regular process going on. I wasn't concerned at that  
2 time.

3 Q. You mentioned a family contact. Can you just explain what  
4 that was, again?

5 A. Yeah. Mr. Thomas Hwang was my director of business in  
6 GSIS. And his brother-in-law, Mr. Jay Pak, was working with  
7 the Omni Holdings Group and it was through Mr. Hwang that I was  
8 introduced to Omni and the idea of asset management, and I  
9 felt -- I trusted Thomas implicitly and I felt like because  
10 this was a family member that this was a trusting situation.

11 Q. So the family member would be the person at Omni who was  
12 introducing you to --

13 A. Mr. Jay Pak, yes.

14 Q. I want to turn your attention to the portion in the middle  
15 of the page that reads proof of available funds to lend. It  
16 says: To be provided by Cosmo Dabi upon formal engagement.  
17 Dr. Penland, did you have any concerns about the fact that the  
18 proof of having the funds available to lend would only be  
19 provided once you engaged in a formal -- once you entered a  
20 formal engagement?

21 A. No, I wasn't concerned at that point.

22 Q. Was that for the reasons you just described earlier?

23 A. Same reasons, yes, sir.

24 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Mr. Lachow, if you could turn to  
25 page 5 of this document, Bates 1124. If you could zoom in on

1 the middle of the page.

2 Q. If you could just read that, Dr. Penland.

3 A. Private funding for our family members can be provided for  
4 almost any type of compelling project, qualifying party or  
5 transaction, provided that the project and/or transaction to be  
6 funded is compliant, noncriminal, possess strong management,  
7 further qualifies, is family business and can clearly  
8 demonstrate the ability to possess positive economic impact  
9 i.e., job creation, philanthropy.

10 Q. Directing you to that last line, possessing economic impact  
11 i.e., job creation, did you have any understanding at this time  
12 as to why Mr. Cosme might be interested in your school?

13 A. I was told it was a finished --

14 MR. DeMARCO: Objection to what he was told.

15 THE COURT: Counsel.

16 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, it's not actually being  
17 offered for its truth. It's just his state of mind going into  
18 the meeting.

19 THE COURT: Anything else on that, Mr. DeMarco?

20 MR. DeMARCO: No, your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Overruled.

22 You may answer, sir. Do you have the question in mind  
23 or do you need it again?

24 THE WITNESS: I'd like the question again.

25 THE COURT: Directing you to the last line, possessing

1 economic impact i.e., job creation, did you have any  
2 understanding at this time as to why Mr. Cosme might be  
3 interested in your school? You started answering: I was told  
4 it was a finished --

5 A. Philanthropic interest.

6 Q. Dr. Penland, if you could turn to page 7 of the document,  
7 Bates 1126.

8 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Mr. Lachow, if you could just focus  
9 on the section that says bio.

10 Q. Dr. Penland, do you recall reviewing this?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. And what type of information did this website contain, this  
13 page of the website?

14 A. It's a bio of Mr. Cosme.

15 Q. When you reviewed this page, were you under the impression  
16 this was Mr. Cosme's biography?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Based on your review of the page, what companies did you  
19 understand that he had worked for in the past?

20 A. Microsoft, SAP America, General Electric, Rolls-Royce.

21 Q. What, if anything, did you think about Mr. Cosme after you  
22 reviewed this page of the website?

23 A. He was influential global player and was -- wow. I was  
24 impressed.

25 Q. You were impressed by the fact that he had worked for all

1 these companies. Is that fair to say?

2 A. Sure.

3 Q. Prior to the meeting in New York, did you visit this page,  
4 this website overall, only on one occasion or did you visit it  
5 multiple times?

6 A. I visited it multiple times to this website.

7 Q. Do you feel you've thoroughly reviewed this website before  
8 the meeting?

9 A. I did. The first time I went to the link I went through  
10 every page of the website, and then I went to different pages  
11 when I referred back to it multiple times.

12 Q. Overall, after you reviewed the website for Cosmo Dabi  
13 International, what were your thoughts about whether your  
14 school should move forward with Mr. Cosme's company as the  
15 source of financing?

16 A. It motivated me to pursue it and to see -- to go after it,  
17 to see whether we could get an agreement.

18 Q. Why did it motivate you?

19 A. The information mainly on the website, the data provided,  
20 the information provided on the website.

21 Q. Why did that data motivate you?

22 A. It motivated me because I thought this was a person that  
23 was capable of providing the funding for our project.

24 Q. Dr. Penland, I'd like to turn to the day of the meeting  
25 with Mr. Cosme. Approximately when was that meeting? You can



1 put that exhibit down.

2 A. That was in December 2010, around the 10th of December.

3 Q. Prior to the meeting with Mr. Cosme, were there any other  
4 meetings that day?

5 A. Yes. We had a meeting late afternoon with the Omni  
6 Holdings Group party.

7 Q. Where did that meeting occur?

8 A. It was in the Wall Street area. I believe it was on John  
9 Street.

10 Q. What, if anything, do you recall about the interior of  
11 Omni's offices?

12 A. I was surprised. I'm not familiar with Wall Street in New  
13 York, but I felt like I was going into sort of an art storage  
14 area. There were a lot of artifacts around on shelves and  
15 ledges and things. It was interesting. It didn't -- it was  
16 just not what I exactly expected when I entered it.

17 Q. The office was in the Wall Street area, is that right?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. Going into your meeting with Omni, what was your  
20 understanding of what their role was going to be in this  
21 transaction?

22 A. The Omni Group were helping us to connect to Mr. Cosme to  
23 get an agreement for the funding for our project.

24 Q. Who from Omni was present at this meeting at your offices?

25 A. Patricia Tsien, Thomas Cleveland, and Jay Pak.

1 Q. Who from your school, TCIS, was present?

2 A. I was present and Thomas Hwang was present.

3 Q. You mentioned Patricia Tsien. What was your sense of what  
4 her role was specifically was going to be with respect to the  
5 Cosmo Dabi deal?

6 A. She was the lead person with Omni and would be the main  
7 person we were communicating with.

8 Q. What was the purpose of this meeting with Omni prior to the  
9 meeting with Mr. Cosme?

10 A. It was to assure me that they had worked out the details  
11 about no prepaid penalty and to let us know about the interest  
12 rate, but, more importantly, to prepare me for how to best  
13 impress Mr. Cosme to make it happen, to get him to take our  
14 project.

15 Q. During the meeting was anybody giving you advice about what  
16 you should tell Mr. Cosme?

17 A. Ms. Tsien was.

18 Q. By the way, Dr. Penland, at this time, what name did you  
19 believe applied to the owner of Cosmo Dabi?

20 A. William Cosmo.

21 Q. You mentioned that you were given some advice. What advice  
22 specifically were you provided at the meeting about what you  
23 should tell Mr. Cosmo?

24 MR. DeMARCO: Objection, your Honor. Hearsay.

25 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, first of all, it's

1 again for effect on the listener. Second of all, these are  
2 statements of an agent at this point, Omni. It falls under the  
3 hearsay exception that we discussed earlier.

4 MR. DeMARCO: Is the government saying this is a  
5 statement in furtherance of a conspiracy?

6 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: We are not offering it for that,  
7 your Honor. We are offering it under 801(d)(2)(C).

8 THE COURT: This is the agency theory in that Omni was  
9 found to be an agent of Mr. Cosme and of his company in  
10 connection with this transaction.

11 You may answer. Sir. Do you need the question again?

12 THE WITNESS: Yes, please.

13 Q. What advice were you given by the Omni representatives  
14 about what you should tell Mr. Cosmo during the meeting?

15 A. Ms. Tsien said we should emphasize the school, our  
16 Christian tradition, the mission of the school, the scholarship  
17 program for missionary children, that we should emphasize the  
18 IB program and the quality of education delivered by the  
19 school, that we should emphasize, talk about the GSIS project,  
20 success with that project, that we should talk about -- make  
21 sure that we stay positive and didn't ask too many questions.

22 Q. You mentioned the IB program. What does that stand for?

23 A. It's the international baccalaureate program. It's an  
24 international educational framework to deliver curriculum  
25 internationally, United Nations school here in New York has the

1 same program.

2 Q. Did Ms. Tsien give you any explanation as to why Mr. Cosmo  
3 would care about the mission of your school, all of the topics  
4 you just mentioned?

5 A. Yes. He was interested in looking at a philanthropic  
6 endeavor and he had some interest in Asia and was interested in  
7 doing something educationally, and we sort of fortunately fit  
8 that criteria, so he had a real genuine interest in our school  
9 and working together with us.

10 Q. During the meeting, what, if anything, did Ms. Tsien tell  
11 you regarding whether your project represented a small project  
12 or a large project for Mr. Cosmo's company?

13 A. Well, really from the very beginning we were -- they wanted  
14 us to borrow 100 million and that was because he's a big player  
15 and we didn't want to borrow that much money. It eventually  
16 got 55. In that meeting she reiterated again that we were  
17 really a small project and this was -- he could lose attention.  
18 Just keep him focused. And this was something that was not a  
19 big business event but a big philanthropic opportunity for him.

20 Q. During this meeting did Ms. Tsien tell you anything about  
21 her own prior business dealings with Mr. Cosmo?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What did she tell you?

24 A. She just said that he's a quick player, he's a big player,  
25 and that he can be eccentric, to stay positive, to really sell

1 the school and the good work that we do at the school.

2 MR. DeMARCO: Objection, your Honor. Not responsive  
3 to the question. Move to strike.

4 THE COURT: Mr. Solowiejczyk.

5 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: I can rephrase the question.

6 THE COURT: Stricken.

7 Ladies and gentlemen, the last answer is stricken from  
8 the record and will play no part in your deliberations.

9 Dr. Penland, would you just listen to the question  
10 counsel asks and answer that question, please.

11 THE WITNESS: Sure.

12 Q. Dr. Penland, what, if anything, did Mr. Tsien tell you  
13 about her own prior business dealings with Mr. Cosmo?

14 A. She had had prior business dealings with Mr. Cosmo and in  
15 working with him he could be eccentric, and she was confident  
16 that he really had a high interest in our school.

17 Q. Dr. Penland, with respect to Mr. Cosmo's personality what,  
18 if anything, did she tell you?

19 A. To be careful, to not ask lots of questions, and to not --  
20 not to provoke him or to turn it negative. The big players  
21 like him could be easily upset or sensitive about negative  
22 things.

23 Q. Based on the meeting at Omni's offices, did you have a  
24 positive impression about going forward with Mr. Cosmo or a  
25 negative impression?

1 A. I was encouraged and very optimistic after the meeting in  
2 the Omni office.

3 Q. Approximately how long was the meeting in Omni's offices?

4 A. It was an hour and a half plus.

5 Q. After the meeting in Omni's offices, what happened next?

6 A. We all went together to JFK Airport.

7 Q. At JFK Airport, who did you meet with?

8 A. Mr. Cosme.

9 Q. Were you originally supposed to meet with Mr. Cosmo at JFK  
10 Airport or were you supposed to meet somewhere else?

11 A. The original plan that day was, we were going to have  
12 dinner somewhere in the New York after meeting with the Omni  
13 Group, but we were told he had travel plans and other concerns  
14 and that the only way we could meet really was to meet at JFK  
15 in the admiral lounge there.

16 Q. You mentioned the admiral lounge. Is that where you met  
17 with in JFK Airport?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. What time of day did the meeting occur?

20 A. It was 7:30, 8:00.

21 Q. When you first arrived at JFK Airport, was Mr. Cosmo  
22 already there or did you have to wait for him?

23 A. When we first arrived we had to get some permission to get  
24 to the admiral lounge because but we didn't have boarding  
25 passes and to get through security back to get to the lounge.

1 We managed that. When we got to the lounge, he was not there.

2 He came later.

3 Q. While you were waiting for Mr. Cosmo, did you have any  
4 additional discussion with Mr. Tsien about the upcoming meeting  
5 with Mr. Cosmo?

6 A. Yes. She reminded me again to sell the philanthropic  
7 nature of our school and the good work that we did and the  
8 mission scholarships, and to not question him or be negative,  
9 to stay positive with him.

10 Q. Mr. Cosmo eventually arrived at the admiral lounge, is that  
11 correct?

12 A. He did.

13 Q. Who was present at the meeting with Mr. Cosmo at the  
14 admiral lounge at JFK Airport?

15 A. Myself and Thomas Hwang, Ms. Patricia Tsien, Mr. Thomas  
16 Cleveland, Mr. Jay Pak, and Mr. Cosmo.

17 Q. Do you see Mr. Cosmo here in the courtroom today,  
18 Dr. Penland?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Can you just describe where he's seated and an article of  
21 clothing that he is wearing?

22 A. Today?

23 Q. Correct.

24 A. He's seated right back there right next to the defense  
25 attorney. I can't see his clothing actually. Blue suit.

1 THE COURT: Thank you for standing up, Mr. Cosme.

2 Q. That's the individual that you met with at JFK Airport?

3 A. Sure.

4 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Let the record reflect that the  
5 witness has identified the defendant.

6 THE COURT: Has identified Mr. Cosme.

7 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Mr. Cosme. Sorry.

8 Q. At the admiral lounge how were you folks arranged for the  
9 meeting? Where were you seated?

10 A. I was seated next to Mr. Cosme, and we were seated around a  
11 circle table. It was a circular table.

12 Q. Were there any beverages provided?

13 A. We had ordered some hors d'oeuvres and snacks and there was  
14 beverage provided. I had soft drinks. I can't remember  
15 exactly what the drinks were, but I know I had soft drinks that  
16 evening.

17 Q. There were beverages and hors d'oeuvres?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Who did the majority of the talking during this meeting at  
20 the admiral lounge?

21 A. Patricia Tsien and myself, I'd say, would be the two most  
22 conversant.

23 Q. Did Mr. Cosme ask you questions in response to the things  
24 you were saying?

25 A. Some, yes.



1 Q. During the meeting what information did you provide to  
2 Mr. Cosme?

3 A. I told him about our project, and I told him about our  
4 school's tradition and history, and I told him about our  
5 scholarship funds. I told a little bit about the IB program  
6 and the kind of college matriculation we had from the school,  
7 the kind of reputation we had, and the kind of communities we  
8 served, at both TCIS and GSIS. We talked about both schools.

9 Q. What, if anything, did Mr. Cosme say to you regarding why  
10 he was interested in your project?

11 A. He said that he was interested in doing something for  
12 school and education, and that was something that he was  
13 looking to do.

14 Q. What, if anything, did Mr. Cosme say to you about what  
15 Ms. Tsien and the Omni team's role would be in the transaction?

16 A. He said Patricia would lead the way and to follow her and  
17 to communicate with her, and she would be the lead person, and  
18 he trusted her and that I should work with her fully.

19 Q. During the meeting did you have some discussion about the  
20 specific terms of the proposed loan?

21 A. Yes. We talked about the interest rate and the prepaid  
22 penalty.

23 Q. By the time the meeting happened, had you in fact already  
24 received a draft agreement relating to the loan?

25 A. Yes, I had.

1 Q. Going into the meeting did you have some general sense of  
2 what the parameters of the loan would be?

3 A. I did.

4 Q. I am going to direct you to Government Exhibit 109A, which  
5 should be in front of you. Do you see that, Dr. Penland?

6 A. I see that.

7 Q. Do you recognize that document?

8 A. Can I look at it a second?

9 Q. Yes, absolutely.

10 Do you recognize that document?

11 A. Yes, I do.

12 Q. What is that, generally speaking?

13 A. This was a draft copy of the escrow trust agreement that he  
14 was offering -- they were offering that evening, had offered  
15 earlier and were offering that evening as the proposal.

16 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor the government offers  
17 Government Exhibit 109A.

18 MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

19 THE COURT: Received.

20 (Government Exhibit 109A received in evidence)

21 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Mr. Lachow, could you just publish  
22 the first page briefly. If you could go to page 8 of the  
23 document, Bates 1404. If you could just zoom in on the text.  
24 Maybe just zoom in on the top half. It's a little hard to  
25 read.

1 Q. This is what you reviewed before the meeting, Dr. Penland?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. This discusses a proposal for a \$55 million construction  
4 loan. Going into the meeting was that your understanding of  
5 what the loan would involve?

6 A. That was my understanding.

7 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: If you could go to the bottom half  
8 of this, Mr. Lachow.

9 Q. Your school would be the borrower, is that right?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. And the lender would be who?

12 A. Cosmo Dabi, Inc.

13 Q. Do you see participation deposit?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. What was that going to be?

16 A. \$5.5 million.

17 Q. Dr. Penland, during the meeting did you discuss the topic  
18 of a prepayment penalty with Mr. Cosmo?

19 A. Yes, sir, we did.

20 Q. What did you discuss?

21 A. Well, I told him that we didn't really need the 55 million  
22 necessarily and that I was concerned that I would like to  
23 return that money earlier, and I wanted to make sure there was  
24 no penalty for returning and repaying the loan early, and he  
25 agreed with that. That was part of this document. We had

1 talked about that beforehand with the Omni Group.

2 Q. Did you talk about the five and a half million dollar  
3 deposit at all, Dr. Penland?

4 A. Yes, we did. That was a big conversation that evening  
5 because I had told them that I couldn't approve that on my own.  
6 I had to go back and get our board of trustees to approve that.  
7 And we talked about security of that and that would be a big  
8 deal for me to be able to convince my board.

9 Q. When you say the security of that, what do you mean?

10 A. That we couldn't lose it.

11 Q. Based on the meeting, what was your understanding about  
12 whether you could lose the five and a half million dollar  
13 deposit?

14 A. I thought we were secure about it.

15 Q. Meaning you could not lose it?

16 A. Correct, sir.

17 Q. With respect to the five and a half million dollar deposit,  
18 what, if anything, did Mr. Cosmo tell you about what he would  
19 do with that deposit?

20 A. Mr. Cosmo said that he would take care of our school and  
21 make sure that he could provide the loan and that he would  
22 ensure that he managed that fund appropriately, that he would  
23 ensure that we were able to complete our project and that the  
24 project would be successful.

25 Q. Was there any discussion with Mr. Cosmo about the

possibility of him investing the five and a half million dollars?

A. There was a little bit of discussion about that. That was also understood in the whole agreement.

Q. But the discussion was not very specific. Is that fair to say?

A. Not that evening. Not at that meeting.

Q. Do you recall what interest rate Mr. Cosmo's company was offering you?

A. Yeah. It was 4 percent per annum.

Q. What was your view at the time of that interest rate?

A. That was very helpful to us. We could pay off the bank loans. The bank loan was a credit loan. It was 7 percent. So this was a very competitive rate from what we were paying with the construction company and with the bank. And so this was very competitive from our point of view in Korea and very helpful to us.

Q. What, if anything, did Mr. Cosmo tell you at the meeting about why he was offering you that interest rate?

A. He said it was because we were a school and a not-for-profit, and he was interested in doing this as a philanthropic project, not as a business project.

Q. What, if anything, did you say to him in response to that?

A. I thanked him. I was really thankful that he was interested in our school in that way.

1 Q. During the meeting did Mr. Cosmo give you any sense of how  
2 he viewed your construction project versus any other projects  
3 he was working on?

4 A. He considered our loan a very small business proposal  
5 compared to what he normally did in his business.

6 Q. Was there any discussion with Mr. Cosmo during the meeting  
7 about when you could expect the first installment of the loan?

8 A. I'm not sure if we -- we did discuss that we needed it in  
9 late March, and that discussion was partly with Mr. Cosme, but  
10 also with the Omni Group before he ever arrived in the room,  
11 and at that meeting prior to that.

12 Q. What was your understanding of what the school would need  
13 to do in order to move forward with receiving a loan?

14 A. In order to activate the agreement we had to get it  
15 approved by our board and deposit the 5.5 million, to invest  
16 that money.

17 Q. What was your sense of how quickly you should move forward  
18 with those steps based on the meeting?

19 A. Throughout the meeting at Omni and the meeting at JFK,  
20 there was a sense of urgency. The quicker we moved, the  
21 quicker we can perform, the quicker we can meet the scheduled  
22 draw given, which was March 31 for the first draw. So it was  
23 get after it and we talked about going back to Korea and  
24 getting after it. And I told him that I thought our board  
25 would approve this plan.

1 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Mr. Lachow, you can take that  
2 document down, by the way.

3 Q. Approximately how long was the meeting with Mr. Cosmo as  
4 the JFK admiral lounge?

5 A. With him there personally, probably about an hour.

6 Q. Coming out of the meeting, what was your feeling overall  
7 about moving forward with Mr. Cosmo and his company?

8 A. I was encouraged. We rode back together in the vehicle  
9 with the Omni Group, and we talked about getting after it and  
10 how quickly we could get it approved and getting the financing  
11 together to make the deposit. And it was a very upbeat  
12 optimistic positive return.

13 Q. Did the Omni representatives tell you anything about how  
14 they felt the meeting had gone?

15 A. They thought it had gone well, that we had done really  
16 well, and that he was motivated by our school and what we  
17 represent.

18 Q. Dr. Penland, shortly after the meeting, did you return to  
19 South Korea?

20 A. Yes. The next day. Yes.

21 Q. Did there come a time when you reported to your board of  
22 trustees at TCIS and the board of trustees at the other school,  
23 GSIS, regarding your meeting in New York City with Mr. Cosmo?

24 A. Yes, I did.

25 Q. I want to direct your attention to what's in front of you

1 which has been marked as Government Exhibit 111.

2 Take a look at that and let me know if you recognize  
3 that document.

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. What is that?

6 A. It's the headmaster's report to the board that I sent prior  
7 to the board meeting. It also had other documents attached.

8 Q. Were you the headmaster of TCIS at this time?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Were you also the headmaster of GSIS at this time?

11 A. Yes, I was.

12 Q. Did you in fact draft this report?

13 A. I wrote it, yes.

14 Q. Was it your regular practice as the headmaster of TCIS and  
15 GSIS to prepare a headmaster's report prior to a board of  
16 trustees meeting?

17 A. Every time.

18 Q. Did you prepare this headmaster's report near the time that  
19 the board of trustees meeting occurred?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. And directing your attention to Government Exhibits 111A  
22 and 111B --

23 MR. DeMARCO: I have no objection to the admission of  
24 these documents into evidence, if that's what the government is  
25 getting at.



1 Q. Maybe Dr. Penland should say what 111A and 111B are.

2 A. 111A is the agenda for the board of trustees public meeting  
3 of both schools, Gyeonggi Suwon and Taejon Christian, and the  
4 second page is the agenda for the executive session of the TCIS  
5 meeting.

6 (Continued on next page)

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1 Q. What's 111B?

2 A. 111B is the proposal for the agreement.

3 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, the government offers  
4 Government Exhibits 111, 111A and 111B.

5 MR. DeMARCO: Still no objection.

6 THE COURT: Received.

7 (Government's Exhibits 111, 111A and 111B received in  
8 evidence)

9 Q. Let's turn to Government Exhibit 111. Dr. Penland, if I  
10 could focus your attention at page 6 that document, which is  
11 marked Penland 123.

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. If I could focus you on the section --

14 Mr. Lachow, it might make sense to focus on half of  
15 the paragraph underneath TCIS project refinancing.

16 Dr. Penland, it states here that you -- you wrote this  
17 report, right?

18 A. I did.

19 Q. I'm just going to read a section to you and ask you a  
20 question about it.

21 "Mr. Hwang reported to me that Omni was able to find  
22 an investor and he was really drawn to us as a not-for-profit,  
23 our GSIS project and our scholarship program, but that we  
24 should really try to increase the amount of" --

25 THE COURT: Slow down, counsel.

1 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: My apologies.

2 Q. -- "that we should really try to increase the amount of  
3 borrowing to include the phase two project as the phase one  
4 borrowing was too small for this type of investor."

5 Dr. Penland, what was the phase one borrowing versus  
6 the phase 2 borrowing?

7 A. The campus relocation project in Taejon had two phases.  
8 The first phase was what we were under contract for, and the  
9 second phase was we were not intending to build at that time  
10 and have not built.

11 Q. Mr. Lachow, if you could go down to the next part of the  
12 page, the sentence that starts with "because."

13 Dr. Penland, it says here, "Because we are a  
14 not-for-profit project, we would be charged only a four percent  
15 simple interest on the amount of funds drawn. We would have  
16 two years initially free of repayment. We could repay early  
17 without penalty. Therefore, if in a couple of years we did not  
18 feel we could manage repayment of the entire amount, we could  
19 simply not draw it or repay it without penalty."

20 Dr. Penland, at this time, did you believe TCIS, in  
21 fact, was going to need the full \$55 million?

22 A. Not at all, sir.

23 Q. And is this the prepayment penalty issue that you discussed  
24 earlier in your testimony?

25 A. That was my concern, yes.

1 Q. Going a little further down, the sentence that starts "Of  
2 course."

3 "Of course, I would like our lawyers to review the  
4 proposed documents that Mr. Hwang will share with you at the  
5 meeting on Thursday."

6 Dr. Penland, did a lawyer ever end up reviewing the  
7 agreements that you ultimately entered into with Cosmo Dabi?

8 A. Regrettably, no, sir.

9 Q. Dr. Penland, can you just briefly explain why a lawyer  
10 never reviewed these documents?

11 A. We did have two CPAs review it, and basically I'll take the  
12 blame for that, but I trusted Mr. Hwang and the family  
13 relationship and thought that this was a secure deal.

14 Q. At the time you were thinking about entering into the  
15 transaction, what, if anything, did you believe were the time  
16 constraints on entering into said transaction?

17 A. We needed to move as soon as we could to get the money  
18 together and get the money to New York.

19 Q. By this time in December of 2010, had construction begun on  
20 the project?

21 A. Oh, sure. It was well under way under construction.

22 Q. So receiving the next --

23 A. We were planning on finishing and moving that summer to the  
24 new site.

25 Q. So how important was it to you to receive an early draw on

1 the loan?

2 A. To receive an on-time draw on the loan in March 31 was very  
3 important.

4 Q. Why?

5 A. We were -- we pretty much knew at that point that the back  
6 end of the financing, which was supposed to be the construction  
7 company, was not going to come forward, and we were drawing  
8 down on the capital fund and the bank loan, and we would have  
9 to move into operational funds and we didn't want to do that,  
10 and we didn't want to stop the project.

11 Q. So after you -- one more part. If you could turn to the  
12 next page, Mr. Lachow, and zoom in on that part of the page.

13 "We have a personal family member of our employee who  
14 has pledged to Thomas and me that this is a safe and very real  
15 deal. We believe that if we can put the escrow funds forward,  
16 that we will have an agreement within a week and have funds  
17 available in mid March."

18 Dr. Penland, at the time that you recommended going  
19 forward with Cosmo Dabi, did you rely on the family connection  
20 that existed there?

21 A. That was very, very important to all of us at that point.

22 Q. Did you believe this was a safe deal?

23 A. We did.

24 Q. You can bring that down, Mr. Lachow.

25 After you provided this headmaster report to the board

1 of trustees, did a board meeting of TCIS take place?

2 A. Yes, it did.

3 Q. Did a board meeting of the other school, GSIS, also take  
4 place?

5 A. Yes, it did.

6 Q. During the meeting -- withdrawn. During the TCIS board  
7 meeting, did you provide a recommendation to the board about  
8 whether they should go forward with seeking a loan from Cosmo  
9 Dabi?

10 A. Yes, we did -- yes, I did.

11 Q. What recommendation did you provide?

12 A. I recommended that we accept their proposal, and that we  
13 move forward, and that we finance the -- invest the money to  
14 get the financing from Cosmo Dabi.

15 Q. I want to direct you to Government Exhibits 113 and 114  
16 that should be in front of you. Do you recognize those two  
17 documents?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. What are they?

20 A. They're minutes from the executive session of both the GSIS  
21 board meeting on December 16, 2010 and the TCIS board meeting  
22 on December 16, 2010.

23 Q. Did you attend the meetings that are referenced in these  
24 minutes?

25 A. Yes, I did.

1 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, we are offering  
2 Government Exhibit 113 and 114.

3 MR. DeMARCO: Without objection, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Received.

5 (Government's Exhibits 113 and 114 received in  
6 evidence)

7 Q. I want to direct your attention, Dr. Penland, to Government  
8 Exhibit 114.

9 And, Mr. Lachow, if you could publish that. If you  
10 could zoom in, Mr. Lachow, on the middle of the page where it  
11 says, "Dr. Penland." That part.

12 It states here, "Dr. Penland gave a report on a new  
13 source of loan money for the construction project."

14 Was that the Cosmo Dabi deal, Dr. Penland?

15 A. Yes, sir, it says that there.

16 Q. And that's the report you gave, right?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. "Then 10-38 moved to approve the \$49.5 million construction  
19 loan for the new campus project from Cosmo Dabi, Inc., New York  
20 City, New York." Was a vote taken that day?

21 A. It was.

22 Q. Did the board, in fact, approve going forward with Cosmo  
23 Dabi for a loan?

24 A. Unanimously.

25 Q. It says here \$49.5 million, but previously we were talking

1 about a \$55 million loan. Can you briefly describe that  
2 discrepancy?

3 A. Well, the board, they were more comfortable, since we were  
4 putting in the 5.5 million, instead of putting in their minutes  
5 55 million loan, since our money was 5.5 of it, they wrote it  
6 as a 49.5 million. That's the way they wanted it in the  
7 minutes.

8 Q. You were putting forward 5 and a half?

9 A. We were putting forward five and a half of our own funds.

10 Q. Dr. Penland, I'm going to direct your attention to  
11 Government Exhibit 115. Do you recognize that document?

12 A. Just one second. Yes.

13 Q. Do you recognize that document?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What is it?

16 A. It's an email trail between Patricia Tsien and some from  
17 Mr. -- from Cosmo Dabi from Mr. Cosmo, and some with Thomas  
18 Hwang and myself and others copied.

19 Q. Were you a party to these emails?

20 A. Yes, I was.

21 Q. Do you recall receiving and sending the emails that are in  
22 that document?

23 A. I -- yeah -- yes, sir.

24 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: The government offers Government  
25 Exhibit 115, your Honor.



1 MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

2 THE COURT: Received.

3 (Government's Exhibit 115 received in evidence)

4 Q. Mr. Lachow, if you could publish page 8, Bates 140 of this  
5 document. Mr. Lachow, if I could ask you to zoom in on the  
6 email right in the middle of the page from Thomas Hwang.

7 Do you recall this email from Mr. Hwang, Dr. Penland?

8 A. Yes, I do.

9 Q. "Pat, we just got it done. They all voted yes. Hooray!  
10 My next step is finding a way to wire the money. I'm talking  
11 to Korea Bank itself, so I should get an answer soon."

12 When was this sent, Dr. Penland?

13 A. It was sent on December 15, 2010.

14 Q. At the time the board voted yes, were you excited about the  
15 fact that you were moving forward with Cosmo Dabi?

16 A. Yes, very excited.

17 Q. Looking up at the chain of the next email, the one from  
18 Patricia Tsien.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Who is this email to?

21 A. To Thomas Hwang and copied to me and Thomas Cleveland and  
22 Jay Pak and Cosmo Dabi, CEO.

23 Q. So did Ms. Tsien add Mr. Cosmo to this email?

24 A. She did.

25 Q. And what did she say?

1 A. "Congratulations!!!!"

2 Q. So, following the approval of the board of the Cosmo Dabi  
3 loan, what had to happen next?

4 A. We had to get our financing together and get the funds  
5 together to provide them with 5.5 million U.S. dollars and get  
6 it wired from Korea to the account in the U.S.

7 Q. So until you provided the \$5 and a half million, were you  
8 going to be able to move forward with the loan?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Who was primarily responsible for gathering the \$5 and a  
11 half million to provide to Cosmo Dabi?

12 A. Thomas Hwang was leading the project at that point and the  
13 financing of the project.

14 Q. Did Mr. Hwang generally keep you apprised of what he was  
15 doing?

16 A. Yes, he did.

17 Q. I'm going to direct you now to Government Exhibit 118.

18 Dr. Penland, do you recognize that document?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. What is it?

21 A. It's another email chain about the getting the agreement  
22 signed, the document signed for the loan.

23 Q. Were you a party to that email chain?

24 A. Yes, I was.

25 Q. Do you recall receiving those emails?

1 A. I do, yes.

2 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, the government offers  
3 Government Exhibit 118.

4 MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

5 THE COURT: Received.

6 (Government's Exhibit 118 received in evidence)

7 Q. Dr. Penland, directing you to the first page of the top of  
8 the email.

9 If you could focus on that, Mr. Lachow.

10 Do you recall sending this email?

11 A. Yes. Yes, sir.

12 Q. What were you sending in this email?

13 A. I was sending in the signed agreements: The Omni deposit  
14 agreement and the engagement agreement with a copy of my  
15 passport.

16 Q. Directing you to what's in front of you as Government  
17 Exhibit 118A and 118B. Were those two documents the  
18 attachments to the email that we just looked at?

19 A. Yes, sir, those are the signed copies.

20 Q. Those are the attachments?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, the government offers  
23 118A and 118B.

24 MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

25 THE COURT: Received.

1 (Government's Exhibits 118A and 118B received in  
2 evidence)

3 Q. Government Exhibit 118A and 118B, were these the final  
4 agreements that you entered into with Cosmo Dabi or were these  
5 just provisional agreements regarding moving forward?

6 A. These were the preliminary agreements. There was another  
7 document as final agreement.

8 Q. At the time you signed these documents on behalf of TCIS,  
9 had TCIS yet provided the \$5 and a half million deposit to  
10 Cosmo Dabi?

11 A. No, not yet.

12 Q. I want to direct you back now to Government Exhibit 118,  
13 Dr. Penland.

14 Mr. Lachow, if you could turn to the second page. The  
15 message that's in the middle of the page from Patricia Tsien.

16 I'm going to focus you, Dr. Penland, where it reads --  
17 first of all, did you receive this email?

18 A. Yes, I did.

19 Q. I'm going to focus you down the page to where it says, "We  
20 need to move quickly so that we can get the loan docs executed  
21 by mid next week the latest. We can't provide loan docs until  
22 we receive funds into bank escrow."

23 What was your understanding of why TCIS needed to move  
24 quickly at this juncture?

25 A. Well, we wanted to get the first draw as quickly as

possible; and to trigger the event, the agreement in getting everything closed, we needed to wire the money.

Q. Do you recall whether you were told on multiple occasions that it was very important to wire the \$5 and a half million as quickly as possible?

A. Many, many times.

Q. Who delivered that message?

A. Patricia Tsien.

Q. I want to look at Government Exhibit 118A. If you could just focus on the top paragraph, Mr. Lachow.

It says here, "To enable the funding of the participation deposit (deposit) required by the proposed funding structure, CDI has arranged with its bank, JP Morgan and Co., and/or its corresponding bank in Korea to accept the deposit into a bank account in Korea on behalf of CDI and to hold and take full bank responsibility over the deposit funds until such time as one of the following occurs."

Then if you could go down to the next part, Mr. Lachow.

"CDI and TCIS agree on the terms of the private funding, and the relevant documents have been executed, at which time TCIS simultaneously in writing authorizes JPM to release funds to CDI and via CDI initially, or CDI and TCIS do not agree on the terms of the private funding documents, and TCIS instructs JPM return the deposit to its own bank via

1 written communications to CDI initially, at which time JPM  
2 immediately responds to the instruction."

3 Dr. Penland, ultimately did TCIS utilize the escrow  
4 mechanism that's described here or did TCIS ultimately wire the  
5 funds directly to Cosmo Dabi?

6 A. We wired the funds directly to Cosmo Dabi.

7 Q. Then directing you to Government Exhibit 128.

8 A. 128?

9 Q. Do you recognize that document, sir?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. What is it?

12 A. It's a copy of an email from -- email chain of Mr. Hwang  
13 and Ms. Tsien.

14 Q. Were you a party to the email?

15 A. I was copied on it, yes, sir.

16 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, the government offers  
17 128.

18 MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

19 THE COURT: Received.

20 (Government's Exhibit 128 received in evidence)

21 Q. I want to direct your attention to the first email at the  
22 top. Who is this email from?

23 A. This is from Thomas Hwang to Jay Pak.

24 Q. What was Mr. Hwang providing in this email?

25 A. Proof of the funds we had at KEB for transfer of the

1 monies.

2 Q. Would that be the \$5 and a half million?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. Was there an attachment to this email?

5 A. Yes, there is.

6 Q. I'm going to direct you to the last page of the document,  
7 page 3.

8 If you could just zoom in on the top half, Mr. Lachow.  
9 Further down.

10 So, what is this document, generally speaking?

11 A. It's a certificate showing a balance in our account of this  
12 amount in U.S. dollars.

13 Q. What was the amount?

14 A. \$5,500,000.

15 Q. What bank was it with?

16 A. Korea Exchange Bank, KEB.

17 Q. Was this one of the steps that was necessary before you  
18 could move forward with the loan?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. I'm going to direct you now to Government Exhibit 135. Do  
21 you recognize that document, sir?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. What is it?

24 A. It's an email chain about the updated loan documents.

25 Q. Were you a party to this email chain?

1 A. Sure. Yes, sir.

2 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: The government offers 135, your  
3 Honor.

4 MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

5 THE COURT: Received.

6 (Government's Exhibit 135 received in evidence)

7 Q. I'm going to direct you to page 1, Dr. Penland, Bates  
8 stamped 1621.

9 If you could focus on, Mr. Lachow, the email starting  
10 at the middle of the page from Ms. Tsien.

11 I'm just going to walk through this with you,  
12 Dr. Penland. This is from Ms. Tsien.

13 "I just heard from Jay that there may be a concern  
14 about Cosmo providing references. Let me be clear there is  
15 absolutely no hesitation to provide you with references."

16 Did you have any concerns about speaking to  
17 Mr. Cosmo's references before you wired the money?

18 A. I did have some.

19 Q. Why did you want to speak with the references?

20 A. Just --

21 MR. DeMARCO: Objection, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Counsel?

23 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Just his reasoning as to why he  
24 wanted to speak with the references. I don't understand the  
25 objection.



1 MR. DeMARCO: He didn't seek any references.

2 THE COURT: I'm sorry?

3 MR. DeMARCO: He never checked references, so why --

4 THE COURT: It's a relevance objection?

5 MR. DeMARCO: Yes.

6 THE COURT: Counsel.

7 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: It's relevant to the school's state  
8 of mind in going forward with the transaction speaking to the  
9 references or not, why they did or did not do so.

10 MR. DeMARCO: I'll withdraw my objection then.

11 THE COURT: You may answer, sir. Do you need the  
12 question again?

13 THE WITNESS: Yes, please.

14 THE COURT: "Q. Why did you want to speak with the  
15 references?"

16 A. Just as a sort of process of going forward with the  
17 agreement.

18 Q. I'm going to read you the next paragraph.

19 "The issue we have is that we had expected the  
20 contracts to be executed and the funds released for trading by  
21 January 5, 2011, exactly 60 international business banking days  
22 from then until March 31, 2011, just in time for the first  
23 draw."

24 Do you see the reference there to the funds being  
25 released for trading?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Did you understand what that meant?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. What did it mean?

5 A. That he was going to use the funds to trade them and invest  
6 them and grow our money and provide us with the loan.

7 Q. "As good business people we had allowed for some  
8 contingencies so that even though we are delayed in receiving  
9 the funds released into Cosmo's trading account, Cosmo has  
10 reaffirmed earlier today that he could very likely make the  
11 March 31 target as long as the funds are received by  
12 January 19th or 20th the absolute latest. That said, Cosmo's  
13 contractual commitment would still be 60 international banking  
14 days from receipt of funds into his trading account, which at  
15 this point would be mid to late April. (I have not counted out  
16 the exact number of days yet.)"

17 Dr. Penland, based upon this email, what was your  
18 understanding of when the school could hope to receive the  
19 first draw?

20 A. Well, we were still hopeful for March 31.

21 Q. Was March 31 required or was it going to be a later date  
22 that was the actual deadline?

23 A. Well, according to this email from Patricia, the required  
24 date would be later, mid to late April, but we had agreed in  
25 the meeting in New York to try to do it by the end of March.

1 Q. Now, Mr. Lachow, if you could focus on the bottom part of  
2 the page.

3 "If TCIS wants to check references prior to releasing  
4 the funds, the total added elapsed time could be as much as ten  
5 more international business banking days (or more than two  
6 calendar weeks) and here's why: Set up a JPM escrow account  
7 and agree on a three-party escrow agreement, or use one of  
8 Cosmo Dabi's escrow accounts which would be similar to wiring  
9 directly to Cosmo's trading account.

10 "Wire the funds into escrow."

11 Mr. Lachow continue the next page.

12 "Arrange a call with one of Cosmo's references, a  
13 prince, king, sheik or CEO of a publicly traded corporation.  
14 Release funds from escrow to Cosme's trading account, if  
15 satisfied.

16 "This added time ensures that TCIS would not receive  
17 its first draw by March 31, 2011."

18 Dr. Penland, how important was it to the school at  
19 this point to receive the first draw as quickly as possible?

20 A. It was very important.

21 Q. What did you understand Ms. Tsien to be telling you about  
22 what sort of delay would be entailed if you wanted to check  
23 references?

24 A. That it would delay it maybe a month or more. It would be  
25 a significant delay.

1 Q. Did that concern you?

2 A. Yes, it did.

3 Q. I want to focus you on the top of this page.

4 "Arrange a call with one of Cosmo's references, a  
5 prince, king, sheik or CEO of a publicly traded corporation."

6 At this time, did you believe Cosmo Dabi had clients  
7 that included CEOs of publicly traded corporations and sheiks?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Going to the next few paragraphs, Mr. Lachow.

10 "One possibility could be for TCIS to release the  
11 funds immediately to Cosmo's trading account upon executing the  
12 private funding and security agreement and the promissory note.  
13 Concurrent to trading being initiated, Cosmo would set up the  
14 call with a reference. In the unlikely event that you are  
15 dissatisfied with the reference check, Cosmo would wire the  
16 funds back immediately upon your demand, and we would provide  
17 you with a guarantee letter to do so."

18 Dr. Penland, we previously talked about TCIS sending  
19 funds into an escrow account. Is that right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What was Ms. Tsien proposing in this section of the email?

22 A. To go ahead and wire the funds to Cosmo.

23 Q. Directly to Cosmo Dabi?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. To skip the escrow process?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What about with respect to reference checks, would those  
3 come before or after you wired the funds?

4 A. After.

5 Q. I want to take a look at page 1 of this email. And just  
6 the top email from Mr. Hwang.

7 "Dear Patricia: Dr. Penland and I agree to send the  
8 fund directly to his trading account. Please send us his  
9 reference via email when transaction is completed. You can  
10 update loan documents again to reflect above changes and send  
11 it to us. Thanks."

12 Who is that from?

13 A. That's from Thomas Hwang.

14 Q. What's the date of that email?

15 A. Monday, the 17th, January 2011.

16 Q. Did you in fact give approval to wire the funds directly  
17 into the Cosmo Dabi trading account?

18 A. I did.

19 Q. Prior to approving that wire transfer, had you spoken to  
20 any references for Cosmo Dabi?

21 A. We had not -- I had not.

22 Q. Dr. Penland, why were you comfortable going forward without  
23 having gotten the references?

24 A. My comfort level was with Mr. Hwang and the family member  
25 Jay Pak and the association with them and his sort of

1 guaranteeing that this was safe and this was good.

2 Q. Given that the school felt that it needed the first draw of  
3 the loan quickly, is it fair to say that also played a factor  
4 in your decision?

5 A. Absolutely. We were wanting to move this as quickly as  
6 possible. I didn't want to delay it. That was another  
7 motivating factor.

8 Q. Dr. Penland, ultimately, after you sent this money, did you  
9 ever have a phone call with any references from Mr. Cosmo?

10 A. I did not.

11 Q. To your knowledge, did anybody at TCIS?

12 A. Not to my knowledge.

13 Q. Did you ever speak to any princes or sheiks that had worked  
14 with Mr. Cosmo?

15 A. No, sir.

16 Q. Did you ever speak to any CEOs of public companies that  
17 worked with Mr. Cosmo?

18 A. No, sir.

19 Q. If TCIS didn't receive the first draw by that March 31,  
20 2011 date, what were going to be some of the immediate  
21 consequences?

22 A. If we didn't receive the draw?

23 Q. Correct.

24 A. That we would get our money back, that --

25 Q. Pardon me. Let me rephrase the question. TCIS was hoping

1 to get the first draw by March 31, 2011. Is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. If the school didn't receive that influx of money by then,  
4 what were going to be the practical consequences to the  
5 project?

6 A. To our project and to the school?

7 Q. Correct.

8 A. We'd be moving into operational funding or have to stop the  
9 project, and that was, as I said earlier, that was not good  
10 either way.

11 Q. Dr. Penland, I'm going to direct you to Government Exhibit  
12 137. Do you recognize that document?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. What is it?

15 A. It's another email chain with Patricia Tsien and Thomas  
16 Hwang primarily, and I'm copied on it along with others at  
17 Omni.

18 Q. Did that email contain various attachments, that top email?

19 A. Yes, it did.

20 Q. I'm going to direct you to Government Exhibit 137A through  
21 137E. If you could take a look at those quickly. Do you  
22 recognize those documents?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. Were those documents attached to the email Government  
25 Exhibit 137?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: The government offers Government  
3 Exhibit 137 and Government Exhibit 137A through 137E, your  
4 Honor.

5 MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

6 THE COURT: Received.

7 (Government's Exhibits 137, 137A through 137E received  
8 in evidence)

9 Q. Dr. Penland, if you could first look at Government Exhibit  
10 137, the email, the top email. If you could just read that  
11 email for us, Dr. Penland? Who is it from, first of all? Let  
12 me ask you that.

13 A. That's from Patricia Tsien to Thomas Hwang.

14 Q. Were you on this email?

15 A. Yes, I was.

16 Q. If you could read it for us?

17 A. "Final set of docs with all names consistent. I have also  
18 attached a letter from Cosmo with the wiring instructions and  
19 his commitment that the equity deposit will be refunded in the  
20 unlikely event you are not satisfied with his reference check.  
21 The sooner the funds are wired, the sooner we can get to work  
22 on meeting your March 31 first draw date or as close as  
23 possible to that date. Last, I have attached the business  
24 registration information from New York State for Cosmo Dabi  
25 International Trading Group, Incorporated. In the interest of



1 time, Cosmo offers that if KEB have any specific questions of  
2 him, that they should not hesitate to email or contact him  
3 directly."

4 Q. What email address was provided?

5 A. CEO@CosmoDabi.com.

6 Q. Can you read the last line?

7 A. "Please do what you can to move as quickly as possible."

8 Q. And KEB is referenced in that email. What's KEB again?

9 A. It's Korea Exchange Bank.

10 Q. Is that the bank the school was using to move the funds to  
11 Cosmo Dabi?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Directing you to Government Exhibit 137A.

14 If you could zoom in, Mr. Lachow, on the top.

15 What did you understand this document to be?

16 A. This was a document showing that there was an entity or a  
17 corporation in New York.

18 Q. Mr. Lachow, if you could focus right below that.

19 Based on your review of this document, where did you  
20 understand Cosmo Dabi to be located at this time?

21 A. On Wall Street in New York City.

22 Q. If you could look at 137B.

23 Mr. Lachow, if you could just focus first on the top  
24 of the document.

25 Who is this letter from?

1 A. The letter was from William Cosmo.

2 Q. When was the letter dated?

3 A. January 18, 2011.

4 Q. It was addressed to you. Is that right?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. Mr. Lachow, if you could focus on the lower portion.

7 Sir, in this letter, did he provide wiring  
8 instructions that went along with this letter?

9 A. Yes, he did.

10 Q. Looking at the second paragraph, "Upon receipt of the  
11 funds, I shall promptly contact you to schedule a conference  
12 call with one of my clients with whom you can confer about  
13 Cosmo Dabi, Inc. You will have ample opportunity to inquire of  
14 my asset management performance."

15 Dr. Penland, after the funds were ultimately wired,  
16 did Mr. Cosmo ever contact you to set up a reference call?

17 A. No, sir.

18 Q. To your knowledge, did he contact anyone at TCIS to set up  
19 a reference call?

20 A. Not to my knowledge.

21 Q. Looking at the last paragraph, "I hereby re-confirm my  
22 earlier commitment that if you are not completely satisfied  
23 with my reference, upon your request, I shall immediately  
24 refrain from initiating any matched buy/sell transactions and  
25 return the \$5.5 million equity deposit you have transferred

into Cosmo Dabi International Trading Group, Inc. bank account, subject only to the requirement that any matched buy/sell transactions that may be in process, the return of the deposited amount shall be delayed until the transactions in process has completed. Any profits arising from such transaction completed prior to the return of the deposited amount shall remain with Cosmo Dabi, Inc."

Do you recall reading that portion of the letter, Dr. Penland?

A. Yes.

Q. What was your understanding about whether you'd be entitled to the return of the funds if you were not satisfied with the reference check?

A. I would be entitled to it. It might be a slight delay due to trading, but that I would be entitled to it. If he made money on it, he was entitled to that.

Q. Dr. Penland, at the time you read this letter, did you notice that in certain portions it mentions Cosmo Dabi, Inc. and in other portions it mentions Cosmo Dabi International Trading Group. Is that something you noticed at the time?

A. I didn't at that time.

Q. Looking at Government Exhibit 137C, what was this document?

A. This was the wiring instruction document.

Q. This was the bank where you were supposed to send the funds?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Which bank was that?

3 A. JP Morgan Chase Bank.

4 Q. What was the account name on the account?

5 A. Account name or title, Cosmo Dabi International Trading  
6 Group, Inc.

7 Q. Just looking briefly at Government Exhibit 137D.

8 If you could just zoom on the top half, Mr. Lachow.

9 Do you recall ultimately entering into a private  
10 funding and security agreement with Cosmo Dabi?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Looking at 137E, Mr. Lachow. Do you recall entering into a  
13 promissory note as well with Cosmo Dabi?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Directing you back to Government Exhibit 137 momentarily.  
16 If you could turn to page 8 of that document, Bates 1661. I  
17 would ask -- the email from Mr. Hwang, do you recall receiving  
18 this email?

19 A. I did, yes.

20 Q. Do you recall Mr. Hwang pointing out the discrepancy  
21 between Cosmo Dabi International Trading Group and Cosmo Dabi,  
22 Inc. in the documents?

23 A. Yes, I do, at that time.

24 Q. Ultimately, were your concerns about that assuaged?

25 A. Yes, they were.

1 Q. I want to turn you to page 7, the page before. Do you  
2 recall receiving this email?

3 A. Yes, I did.

4 Q. Turning back to page 8, Mr. Lachow.

5 Who is it from, by the way?

6 A. The one on page 7?

7 Q. Mmm-hmm.

8 A. It's from Patricia Tsien.

9 Q. Mr. Lachow, if you could go to the top of 8 and the  
10 paragraph that starts "now" in all caps.

11 So this is Ms. Tsien in this email. Is that correct?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. "Now, I have to explain a shortcut I took yesterday that  
14 can cause us a problem with Cosmo unless handled carefully and  
15 with your acceptance. Tom and I have worked with Cosmo for  
16 almost two years. We know how to work with him and how to keep  
17 him motivated. He really likes both Thomas Hwang and Thomas  
18 Penland and the TCIS project very much especially since this is  
19 a small transaction for him."

20 THE COURT: Counsel.

21 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Sorry, your Honor. I talk too fast  
22 in general. I'm working on it.

23 Q. "Cosmo has a trader's mentality and personality, which  
24 means that he has a short attention span. He also does not  
25 like last minute questions that in his past experience have

1 sometimes turned out to be delaying tactics. Your last minute  
 2 request yesterday evening for answers regarding his corporate  
 3 structure unfortunately could be misinterpreted as such. I  
 4 have tried to protect TCIS and have made excuses that I know he  
 5 will accept."

6 Dr. Penland, at this time, what was your understanding  
 7 based on your prior discussions with Omni about what could  
 8 happen if you pressed Mr. Cosmo for certain answers?

9 A. If we did that, it could become negative, and he would move  
 10 away from the deal, the agreement.

11 Q. OK, continuing. "The one excuse I made yesterday was that  
 12 KEB" -- that's Korea Exchange Bank. Is that right?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. -- "asked about the corporate documents that demonstrated  
 15 William R. Cosmo as the president and CEO of Cosmo Dabi  
 16 International Trading Group, Inc. He would readily accept that  
 17 as a bank compliance question.

18 "So I will have a hard time going back to Cosmo to  
 19 explain that you need (as opposed to the bank) the corporate  
 20 documents before Dr. Penland signs the loan documents."

21 What advice, if any, did you believe Ms. Tsien was  
 22 giving you in this email?

23 A. To not ask so many questions, and to slow down on our due  
 24 diligence, back off on it.

25 Q. Looking at the last paragraph: "Is it acceptable to you to

1 execute the documents and then tell KEB that Cosmo has offered  
2 his contact details for them to complete any compliance they  
3 deem necessary before wiring the funds including getting a copy  
4 of his corporate documents answering the specific question  
5 regarding William R. Cosmo, the authorized signatory and CEO of  
6 Cosmo Dabi International Trading Group. Cosmo, like all asset  
7 managers we worked with, disseminate corporate information to  
8 the client's bank and/or their attorneys. In that way you  
9 should feel protected because it is commonplace for banks to  
10 perform such due diligence."

11 Dr. Penland, at the time you read this, did this  
12 explanation make sense to you?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And ultimately, did TCIS follow Ms. Tsien's advice?

15 A. Yes, we did.

16 Q. You went forward with the wire transfer?

17 A. We did.

18 Q. Did you feel that all of your questions had been answered  
19 at that time?

20 A. Yes. Thomas Hwang and I agreed that we were willing to  
21 move forward with the --

22 Q. But all the questions Mr. Hwang had, had they all been  
23 answered or had some of them --

24 A. We -- no, they had not all been answered, but we decided to  
25 move forward.

1 Q. I want to direct you now to Government Exhibit 190. If you  
2 could just flip through the pages of that document and look up  
3 once you've reviewed it.

4 A. OK.

5 Q. Dr. Penland, do you recognize those documents?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Generally speaking, what are they?

8 A. They're the signed agreements, the documents and the  
9 documentation of executing the wiring of the funds.

10 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, the government offers  
11 Government Exhibit 190.

12 MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

13 THE COURT: Received.

14 (Government's Exhibit 190 received in evidence)

15 Q. Let's start with the private funding and security  
16 agreement, page 1 of the document. What was the date of the  
17 agreement, Dr. Penland?

18 You could zoom in on the top part, Mr. Lachow?

19 A. January 19, 2011.

20 Q. What was the private funding amount?

21 A. 55 million U.S. dollars.

22 Q. What was going to be the purpose of the private funding  
23 proceeds?

24 A. Construction funding.

25 Q. Did that include, according to this document, both phase



1 one and phase two?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. So \$35 million was needed for phase one, is that right,  
4 approximately?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. Who was the borrower under this agreement?

7 A. TCIS, Taejon Christian International School.

8 Q. It's a little hard to see, but who was the funder?

9 A. The Cosmo Dabi International Trading Group, Inc.

10 Q. Turning your attention to page 2, towards the bottom, all  
11 the way at the bottom, equity deposit.

12 Dr. Penland, this states, "Equity deposit. The sum of  
13 five million five hundred thousand and zero dollars, the equity  
14 deposit, as demonstration of borrower's equity in the  
15 construction project whereby borrower acknowledges that its  
16 equity deposit shall be used by the funder to facilitate,  
17 managed, matched, buy/sell/trade finance strategies using  
18 private physical gold products, other commodities, automotive,  
19 investment grade financial instruments and/or various other  
20 types of transactions from which the proceeds shall be used to  
21 generate the private funding amount."

22 Dr. Penland, the private funding amount, is that the  
23 loan?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Based on this provision, what was your understanding about

1 what Cosmo Dabi was going to do with the \$5 and a half million  
2 equity deposit?

3 A. He was going to invest it.

4 Q. Does this provision describe certain types of investments  
5 that will be made with the equity deposit?

6 A. Yes, it does.

7 Q. Dr. Penland, do you have much experience in the finance  
8 industry?

9 A. Not very much.

10 Q. Did you understand all the different strategies that Cosmo  
11 Dabi was potentially going to employ to invest the \$5 and a  
12 half million deposit?

13 A. To some degree.

14 Q. Did you fully understand it though?

15 A. I'm not an expert in financial investment.

16 Q. Going down under the heading, the same page just a few  
17 lines down, "Article 2, management of equity deposit" in that  
18 first paragraph below that.

19 "Borrower hereby appoints and retains funder as its  
20 fund manager (manager) on the terms and conditions set forth  
21 herein for the equity deposit. Funder accepts such appointment  
22 and assumes responsibility for the fund management on the  
23 closing date and agrees to manage and direct the equity deposit  
24 funds to generate the desired private funding amount guaranteed  
25 upon all borrower qualifications and conditions being

1 satisfactory to the funder."

2 Who is the funder under this agreement?

3 A. Mr. Cosme.

4 Q. Cosmo Dabi?

5 A. Yes, I -- that's what the agreement says, yes.

6 Q. And per this provision, what is the funder supposed to do  
7 with the \$5 and a half million equity deposit?

8 A. To manage it and to generate the desired amount for the  
9 private funding amount.

10 Q. Where it says, "Generate the desired funding amount, direct  
11 the equity deposit amounts to generate the private funding  
12 amount," what did you understand that to mean?

13 A. That he was going to take our money and that he would grow  
14 it, and we would get the loan from him according to the  
15 schedule, and we were on our way.

16 Q. The private funding amount, that's the \$55 million loan?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Was the school, in fact, appointing Cosmo Dabi to a certain  
19 role in this agreement?

20 A. Yes, he's the fund manager.

21 Q. What's he managing?

22 A. Our funds.

23 Q. Is that the \$5 and a half million equity deposit?

24 A. Yes, sir, that.

25 Q. Looking further down the page to the section that reads,

"Investments. Manager shall enter into managed, matched, buy/sell/trade finance strategies using private physical gold products, other commodities, automotive and investment grade financial instruments, and/or various other types of transactions from which the proceeds shall be used to generate the private funding amount."

Dr. Penland, generally speaking, what did you understand this provision to say?

A. That he was going to take our asset, the 5.5 million, and he would find different strategies and ways to grow that to provide the loan amount that we had agreed on.

Q. Dr. Penland, I direct you to page 4 of the document: If we could just focus on the top portion, top half; one down from that.

A. Yes.

Q. Dr. Penland, we already discussed the private funding amount, the \$55 million loan, correct?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What's the repayment amount?

A. \$49,500,000.

(Continued on next page)

1 Q. Five and a half million was already put forward by your  
2 school?

3 A. Yes. Plus accrued interest on that.

4 Q. What was going to be the term of the loan, repayment of the  
5 loan?

6 A. 12 years.

7 Q. And the interest rate, what was that supposed to be?

8 A. 4 percent annum.

9 Q. Was that the interest rate that you had discussed with  
10 Mr. Cosme during the meeting in New York?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Looking at repayment, months 1 through 24 of the defer  
13 payment period. Was the school expected to repay the loan in  
14 the first 24 months?

15 A. No, sir. It was deferred.

16 Q. When would repayment begin?

17 A. After two years.

18 Q. Was there going to be a prepayment penalty under this  
19 agreement?

20 A. No, sir, there would not be.

21 Q. That was something you specifically discussed with  
22 Mr. Cosme during the meeting in New York?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Let's turn to page 5. Pardon me one second.

25 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Can we go back to page 3, Mr.

1 Lachow and the term closing date.

2 Q. Under the terms of the agreement, what was the closing date  
3 for the transaction?

4 A. When the equity deposit was received into the bank account  
5 of the funder per the wiring instructions from the funder.

6 Q. Now let's turn to page 5.

7 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Mr. Lachow, if you could just focus  
8 on the line above the box and then the box itself.

9 Q. What was this provision, Dr. Penland? Was this some type  
10 of schedule?

11 A. Yes. This is the draw schedule for the first draw.

12 Q. Looking at the left-hand column, what was the first draw of  
13 the loan? What was the amount going to be?

14 A. 15 million.

15 Q. According to this, the first draw to be disbursed, 60  
16 business days from the closing date, and the closing date is  
17 what, Dr. Penland?

18 A. March 31, 2011, or 60 business days from the --

19 Q. The closing date. We just talked about that.

20 A. The closing date was on the date we wired the funds.

21 Q. It would be 60 business days after you wired the funds, is  
22 that right?

23 A. Correct. The first draw, yes.

24 Q. It was currently estimated to be no later than March 31,  
25 2011. Do you recall that?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Borrower understands that March 31, 2011 may be adjusted  
3 based upon the closing date?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So it would depend on when you wired the funds?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. 60 business days after that you could expect the first  
8 draw, is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. If the first draw is not disbursed by March 31, 2011, or is  
11 it adjusted by the actual closing date, let's talk about what  
12 would happen. Would there be any type of grace period for  
13 Cosmo Dabi?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. According to this, what's the grace period?

16 A. An additional 15 international banking days.

17 Q. So Cosmo Dabi would have another 15 international banking  
18 days to disburse the first draw, is that right?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. If Cosmo Dabi did not do that, was the school entitled to  
21 the return of its equity deposit, the five and a half million  
22 dollars?

23 A. Yes, sir, it was.

24 Q. Looking at item 3, when would that happen?

25 A. Within seven business days thereafter.

1 Q. If the school didn't receive the first draw, the first 15  
2 million within 60 business days, the grace period elapsed, the  
3 equity deposit was supposed to be returned, is that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. In full, is that correct?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. Then looking at provision 4, unless funder and TCIS  
8 mutually agree in writing to extend the first draw disbursement  
9 date.

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. So there was an option to extend the deadline?

12 A. There was.

13 Q. Dr. Penland, the next line down mentions 3.3 million dollar  
14 origination points. Do you see that?

15 A. Yes, I do.

16 Q. What did you understand that to be?

17 A. Origination or handling fee.

18 Q. Was it your understanding that Cosmo Dabi would receive a  
19 fee in connection with providing you a loan?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Was it your understanding that Cosmo Dabi would receive  
22 such a fee in connection with originating a loan?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. If Cosmo Dabi didn't provide the first draw and you asked  
25 for your deposit back in full, did you believe Cosmo Dabi was



1 entitled to any fee?

2 A. No, not a thing.

3 Q. With respect to the equity deposit, Dr. Penland,  
4 ultimately, just looking at the schedule, did TCIS ever receive  
5 the first draw of the loan?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Did you ever receive the first 15 million?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Did the grace period elapse?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did the school ultimately give additional extensions to  
12 Cosmo Dabi?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. At some point did the school formally demand its equity  
15 deposit back in full according to --

16 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Mr. Lachow, if you could focus on  
17 the schedule, the part we were just focused on before, Mr.  
18 Lachow.

19 Q. Under provision 3 here, did you ultimately ask for your  
20 equity deposit back?

21 A. We did.

22 Q. Did you believe you were entitled to it back in full under  
23 this agreement?

24 A. Yes, we did.

25 Q. Did you ever receive your equity deposit back?

1 A. No, sir.

2 Q. Did you ever receive a single dollar of your equity deposit  
3 back?

4 A. No, sir.

5 Q. Directing you to page 17 of the agreement, is that your  
6 signature on this agreement?

7 A. Yes, it is.

8 Q. You signed on behalf of TCIS?

9 A. I did.

10 Q. Looking below, did Mr. Cosmo also cosign the agreement?

11 A. Yes, he did.

12 Q. On behalf of who?

13 A. Cosmo Dabi International Trading Group, Inc.

14 Q. Looking at page 19, two pages back there is a draw,  
15 schedule A, draw schedule, and use of funds. Just looking at  
16 the top portion, phase 1, under this schedule TCIS would get  
17 the first draw after 60 business days, is that right?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. That would be 15 million, right?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. And then would there be additional draws after that?

22 A. Yes, sir, as scheduled, end of April, end of May, end of  
23 June, and end of September.

24 Q. In what amounts?

25 A. Five million each time.

1 Q. That would complete phase 1, is that right?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. Looking at phase 2?

4 A. Yes. It goes on, December 2011 and then throughout 2012,  
5 March, June, September, December 2012.

6 Q. Starting on December 30, 2011 the second phase of the  
7 borrowing would happen, is that right?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. According to this, when would the repayment begin?

10 A. Begin on January 1, 2013.

11 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Mr. Lachow, if you could publish  
12 page 21 of the document, two pages back, Dr. Penland. The  
13 document that says KEB on the top left.

14 Q. Focusing on the top half of that page, Mr. Lachow, what did  
15 this document show?

16 A. This document is the evidence of the wire transfer  
17 completed to Cosmo Dabi from the KEB account, Taejon -- TCIS  
18 account.

19 Q. What was the amount of the wire?

20 A. \$5,500,000.

21 Q. Which bank did you end send it from?

22 A. KEB USA International.

23 Q. Which bank did it go to?

24 A. JP Morgan Chase Bank.

25 Q. According to this document, when were the funds sent?

1 A. January 21, 2011. 4:53 in the afternoon, 16:53.

2 Q. On January 21 then, when the funds were wired, around that  
3 time would have been the closing date, right?

4 A. That would have been the closing date, my understanding,  
5 yes.

6 Q. That would trigger all the other events that we just talked  
7 about in this agreement, right?

8 A. Correct. We tried to meet that January 19, 20 date that  
9 Patricia had recommended that we meet.

10 Q. I am going to direct you to Government Exhibit 141. Do you  
11 recall this meeting exchange, Dr. Penland?

12 A. Yes, I do.

13 Q. Were you a party to these e-mails?

14 A. Yes, I was.

15 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor the government offers  
16 Government Exhibit 141.

17 MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

18 THE COURT: Received.

19 (Government Exhibit 141 received in evidence)

20 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Mr. Lachow, if you could publish  
21 page 2 and just focus on the e-mail from Mr. Cleveland at the  
22 bottom of the page.

23 Q. Do you recall reading this e-mail, Dr. Penland?

24 A. Yes, I do.

25 Q. Can you just read that for us?

1 A. Yes. In case you are wondering why there is only 1,000 in  
2 Cosmo's account, your money has been wired into a subaccount of  
3 Cosmo's overall accounts. As is custom and proper, Cosmo sets  
4 up a subaccount for each transaction so that the funds  
5 associated with each transaction are segregated. Cosmo seeded  
6 the subaccount for TCIS transaction with \$1,000 to open up the  
7 subaccount.

8 Q. Did you have any concerns when you learned that the account  
9 you were sending the money to only had a thousand dollars in  
10 it?

11 A. No, not really.

12 Q. Why not?

13 A. I just assumed this was their way of handling their  
14 business, and I wasn't concerned about it.

15 Q. Looking at page 7, Bates 1712, the middle of the page, the  
16 e-mail from Thomas Hwang, were you a recipient of this e-mail  
17 from Mr. Hwang?

18 A. I was.

19 Q. Who else was on the e-mail?

20 A. Thomas Cleveland, CEO at Cosmo Dabi; Patricia Tsien;  
21 Thomas' other e-mail account; myself; and Jay Pak.

22 Q. Looking at the first line, this looks like a confirmation  
23 that we completed our end of the deal for now. Now let it  
24 multiply. What was your understanding about the phrase let it  
25 multiply in this e-mail?

1 A. It was our understanding that he was going to take our  
2 money and he would begin to grow it immediately.

3 Q. And looking at the fifth paragraph down it starts:  
4 William. William, TCIS seed money is now in your hand and  
5 please help the school through the new campus relocation  
6 project. By the way, thanks for loaning us at an incredible  
7 low interest rate. It's really pleasure to doing business with  
8 you.

9 Dr. Penland, did you share Mr. Hwang's sentiments that  
10 you had been given a low interest rate?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. And did you feel like you had entrusted Mr. Cosmo with  
13 something that was important to the school?

14 A. Really important, yes, sir.

15 Q. What was that?

16 A. The funding of the project and our funds that we had wired  
17 to get that funding. All of it was important.

18 Q. Looking up at the next page, page 6, 1711, page 6 of the  
19 document.

20 A. Yes.

21 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: If you could zoom in on the bottom  
22 of the page, Mr. Lachow.

23 Q. Who is this e-mail from?

24 A. This is from Cosmo Dabi CEO@Cosmo Dabi.com.

25 Q. Was this in response to Mr. Hwang's e-mail that we just

1 went over?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can you read that into the record.

4 A. Hello, Tom. This is to Thomas Hwang. Hello, Tom. Yes,  
5 sir. It appears that you have done all that you had stated you  
6 would do and all that was required on your side thus far, which  
7 admirable and awesome. When funds are clear, I will notify you  
8 ASAP via Omni and start the exponentials, etc. Now get some of  
9 that rest.

10 Q. Do you recall receiving this e-mail?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. What did you believe Mr. Cosmo was referring to with the  
13 exponentials?

14 A. That was the multiplying of our fund, the growing of the  
15 fund.

16 Q. Looking at the last page of the exhibit, do you recall  
17 seeing this document in conjunction with this e-mail?

18 A. Yes, I did.

19 Q. Was this in fact attached to the e-mail exchange?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What does this show?

22 A. It shows the bank transfer credit of \$5,500,000, in  
23 incoming wire transfer from Seoul, Korea from TCIS.

24 Q. This shows an incoming transfer. Was this a depiction of  
25 Cosmo Dabi's bank account, as far as you understood?

1 A. For our account, yes.

2 Q. Showing him that you had sent him a wire, right?

3 A. Yes. Showing us our money had arrived in his account.

4 Q. According to this, what were the last four digits of the  
5 account number?

6 A. 6625.

7 Q. Dr. Penland, at this point TCIS had wired the funds to  
8 Cosmo Dabi, is that correct?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. What did you expect was going to happen next?

11 A. I expected that he was going to go to work for us and  
12 manage our funds and grow them and that we were on our way to  
13 having funding for our project and was feeling very, very  
14 thankful and optimistic about our school and the project.

15 Q. Under the terms of your agreement when were you expecting  
16 Cosmo Dabi would provide the first draw of the loan, the first  
17 \$15 million?

18 A. We were hoping and wishing for end of March, and that was  
19 what we expected and that was the goal everyone was working  
20 toward.

21 Q. But under the agreement when was it required that he give  
22 you --

23 A. 60 business days after the closing January 21 or  
24 thereabouts.

25 Q. Did TCIS in fact receive the first installment of the loan



1 60 business days after the wire transfer?

2 A. No, sir.

3 Q. I am going to direct your attention to Government Exhibit  
4 154. Do you recognize that document?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. What is it?

7 A. It's an e-mail from Thomas Hwang to Mr. Sa, his assistant,  
8 copied to me.

9 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: The government offers Government  
10 Exhibit 154.

11 MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

12 THE COURT: Received.

13 (Government Exhibit 154 received in evidence)

14 Q. Were there attachments to this e-mail, Dr. Penland?

15 A. There was.

16 Q. I direct you to 154A and 154B. Do you recognize those  
17 documents?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Just briefly, what's 154A and what's 154B?

20 A. 154A was a check written by Mr. William Cosme to Morgan  
21 Stanley for \$406,000.

22 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, I would offer 154A and  
23 154B.

24 MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

25 THE COURT: Received.

1 (Government Exhibits 154A and 154B received in  
2 evidence)

3 Q. Dr. Penland, what was 154A?

4 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: If you could publish that briefly,  
5 Mr. Lachow.

6 A. Again, it was a check written to Morgan Stanley from  
7 Mr. Cosmo for \$406,000.

8 Q. Let's look at 154B. As part of the due diligence that TCIS  
9 needed to conduct for the project, had TCIS requested these  
10 documents?

11 A. No. Actually, the bank was requesting it. When we  
12 offshore funds, we had to give a certain amount of evidence of  
13 where those funds were going, that they weren't personally  
14 going to someone at the school or something like that. The  
15 bank wanted us to give them this information.

16 Q. As part of the due diligence your school had to do for your  
17 bank, to satisfy your bank, did you request these documents?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Ultimately were these documents provided to TCIS?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Do you remember looking at Government Exhibit 154B?

22 A. Yes, I did.

23 Q. And I just want to focus you at the top portion to start.

24 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: The top half, Mr. Lachow.

25 Q. What did you understand this document to be?

1 A. This was a document showing William Cosmo as the owner and  
2 chief stakeholder of Cosmo Dabi --

3 Q. I'm sorry. What is the document, generally speaking?

4 A. Demonstration of an incorporation and registration of a  
5 business.

6 Q. Is it a resolution adopted by a director of a company?

7 A. Yes, it is.

8 Q. What company is that?

9 A. Cosmo Dabi International Trading Group, Inc.

10 Q. I'm going to direct you to paragraph 3 of the resolution.

11 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Mr. Lachow, if you could focus on  
12 that and the text underneath.

13 Q. What did you understand this portion of the resolution  
14 contained?

15 A. The officers in the corporation. Mr. Cosmo was sole  
16 director. He was the president. Another person,  
17 vice-president; another person, secretary; another person,  
18 treasurer.

19 Q. Based on your review of this document, did you believe that  
20 Cosmo Dabi had additional officers beyond Mr. Cosmo?

21 A. In his corporation or this group, yes.

22 Q. There was a vice-president and a secretary and a treasurer,  
23 right?

24 A. That's correct.

25 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: One moment, your Honor.

1 Q. Dr. Penland, I would ask that you turn to what's been  
2 marked as Government Exhibit 206. If you could take a look at  
3 that and let me know once you have read it. Do you recognize  
4 that document, sir?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. What is it?

7 A. It's an e-mail chain and it's from me to Patricia Tsien and  
8 Thomas Hwang and answers back through Thomas Hwang.

9 Q. Do you recall receiving e-mails depicted in the document?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: The government offers Government  
12 Exhibit 206.

13 MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

14 THE COURT: Received.

15 (Government Exhibit 206 received in evidence)

16 Q. Dr. Penland, looking at page 1, the e-mail that starts at  
17 the bottom of the page from Ms. Tsien, I am going to read these  
18 first through paragraphs to you. What's the date on this  
19 e-mail, by the way?

20 A. This was April 6.

21 Q. And when were you expecting to receive the first  
22 installment of the loan?

23 A. Hoping March 31 or 60 business days after January 21.

24 Q. So this would be around the time that your school was  
25 hoping to get that first draw, correct?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. Cosmo told us a couple of weeks ago that the crisis in  
3 Japan had caused a slowdown in the international pipeline of  
4 transactions, but he was still hopeful on meeting the April 15  
5 target. As such, I chose not to share that information at that  
6 time.

7 Yesterday he said there is likely to be a small  
8 impact, but he would let us know as soon as possible the  
9 impact. The slowdown on pipeline affects the quantity and  
10 quality of transactions so that he can generate the necessary  
11 returns.

12 Based on this e-mail, what was your understanding of  
13 why Mr. Cosmo might not be able to provide the draw in the time  
14 frame that had been promised?

15 A. Because of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan and its  
16 effect on international markets.

17 Q. When you saw that, what were you thinking at the time?

18 A. I didn't -- I was -- it raised some questions in my mind.

19 Q. Why did you think a tsunami in Japan might affect the  
20 ability to provide the first draw of the loan?

21 A. I understood that it was a serious event that occurred in  
22 Japan. I live in Korea. I was very aware of that event, but I  
23 knew business was going on in Korea and Asia, and I just  
24 didn't -- it wasn't a red flag, but it was a yellow flag at  
25 that point to say, wow, really?

1 Q. Looking at the last paragraph on that first page, as you  
 2 know, April 15 was a very tight as target date anyway and is  
 3 well below the 60 international banking day commitment to fund  
 4 the first draw, but Cosmo had wanted to try to get as close to  
 5 what he knew was the goal of March 31 as possible, so he pushed  
 6 himself.

7 Look at the next page. I will let you know as soon as  
 8 I know what the new target will be but which should still be  
 9 less than 60 international banking days.

10 Under your agreement with Mr. Cosmo, wasn't it your  
 11 understanding that he was required to provide the first draw 60  
 12 business days from the closing date?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Did you notice at the time Ms. Tsien was referring to  
 15 international banking days all of a sudden?

16 A. I was getting confused at that time because the language  
 17 kept changing.

18 Q. Were you surprised to hear that Cosmo could not provide the  
 19 first draw in the time frame that he had promised?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Why were you surprised?

22 A. I thought it was a sure thing. I thought it was going to  
 23 happen.

24 Q. Did you think he had significant resources at his disposal,  
 25 based on what you heard about him and read about him?

1 A. Up to that point, yes, I did.

2 Q. Let me direct you to Government Exhibit 155. Do you  
3 recognize this document?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. What is it?

6 A. It's an e-mail from Thomas Hwang to me.

7 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, the government offers  
8 Government Exhibit 155.

9 MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

10 THE COURT: Received.

11 (Government Exhibit 155 received in evidence)

12 Q. What's the date of this e-mail?

13 A. This is April 19, 2011.

14 Q. Do you recall receiving this e-mail?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Could you read the text of the e-mail to us.

17 A. Dear Dr. Penland, as I have informed you earlier, Omni  
18 couldn't make a first draw on schedule by April 15 due to  
19 mainly the following two reasons. Our escrow was cleared on  
20 January 27 to Omni and its associate missing the target date by  
21 about 15 banking days. Japan earthquake and tsunami halted  
22 finance pipeline between Omni associates all over the world and  
23 caused the trading to be on hold. Our contract with Omni says  
24 first draw after 60 banking days, and this normally equates to  
25 about 15 normal weeks, they didn't have enough time to mature

1 the fund. I'm actively in contact with Omni to renegotiate  
2 first draw schedule and/or partial draw and will update on  
3 this.

4 Q. First of all, Dr. Penland, Mr. Hwang refers to Omni  
5 repeatedly in this e-mail. Who did you understand was actually  
6 going to be lending you the money?

7 A. Mr. Cosmo.

8 Q. Cosmo Dabi?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Did you and Mr. Hwang sometimes use the word Omni as  
11 shorthand for the deal?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Is that because you primarily were interfacing with Omni as  
14 the go-between?

15 A. Very much.

16 Q. Is it fair to say that you understood him to be talking  
17 about the Cosmo Dabi loan in this e-mail?

18 A. Absolutely.

19 Q. Now, it says here: Our contract with Omni says first draw  
20 after 60 banking days. This normally equates to about 15  
21 normal weeks. Didn't your contract say 60 business days?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. At that time were you confused by the sudden change?

24 A. I was. We were having conversations about that.

25 THE COURT: Mr. Solowiejczyk, how much longer with



1 this witness?

2 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Significantly longer.

3 THE COURT: Let me know when it's a convenient time.

4 I think the jurors have been sitting here a while and probably  
5 need a break.

6 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Yes, your Honor.

7 Q. So, again, there is a reference here to the Japan  
8 earthquake and tsunami halted financing pipelines between Omni  
9 associates all over the world and caused the trade to be on  
10 hold.

11 What did you think of that at the time you saw it?

12 A. As I said, I had some questions about whether that was  
13 really a problem, that significant of a problem financially.

14 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, this would be a good as  
15 time as any.

16 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, let's take the lunch  
17 break now. Would you please remember not to discuss the case  
18 among yourselves or with anyone else.

19 You know what I am going to yell at you about, no  
20 research on the case. And would you return, please, at 1:35.  
21 Have a pleasant lunch. I'll look to you for a weather report  
22 when you come back in. If you are using a notebook, please  
23 leave it in the jury box. Have a pleasant lunch. Do not  
24 freeze.

25 (Jury not present)

1 THE COURT: Anything else on the record?

2 MR. DeMARCO: No, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Thank you, counsel. See you after lunch.

4 (Luncheon recess)

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AFTERNOON SESSION

1:35 p.m.

THE COURT: May we bring the jurors in, folks. Thank you.

(Jury present)

THE COURT: We continue with the direct examination of Dr. Penland.

Mr. Solowiejczyk.

BY MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK:

Q. Dr. Penland, I direct your attention to Government Exhibit 156. Do you recognize that document, Dr. Penland?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is it?

A. It's an e-mail between Thomas Hwang and myself.

Q. And directing you to Government Exhibit 156A, do you recognize that document?

A. Yes, I do.

Q. What is that?

A. It's a letter from William Cosmo to me.

Q. Do you recall receiving the each and the attachment?

A. Yes, I do.

MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, the government offers Government Exhibit 156 and 156A.

MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

THE COURT: Received.

1 (Government Exhibits 156 and 156A received in  
2 evidence)

3 Q. Dr. Penland, let's turn to Government Exhibit 156 first.

4 This was an e-mail from Thomas Hwang, is that right?

5 A. Yes, sir. It was an e-mail to me to Thomas and then a  
6 response back.

7 Q. The top e-mail is an e-mail from Thomas Hwang to you,  
8 correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Looking at the last line in that e-mail it states: Please  
11 find the letter from Cosmo and let me know if you have any  
12 questions.

13 He was sending you a letter from Mr. Cosmo, is that  
14 correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Let's turn to 156A. And this is a letter to you, is that  
17 correct?

18 A. To myself and Mr. Thomas Hwang.

19 Q. What is the topic of the letter?

20 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: If you could zoom in on the top,  
21 Mr. Lachow.

22 A. Funding status per your request.

23 Q. Now, the letter says it's dated May 10 of 2010?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Do you think that date was accurate?

1 A. I think it's probably a typo. It was 2011.

2 Q. Have you ever had any contact with Mr. Cosmo in May of  
3 2010?

4 A. No.

5 Q. And the e-mail that we just looked at, was that dated in  
6 May of 2011 as well?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Mr. Lachow, if you could focus on  
9 the first two paragraphs of the letter.

10 Q. By May of 2011, what was your understanding of whether TCIS  
11 would have been entitled to the first \$15 million draw on the  
12 loan?

13 A. Could you repeat that question.

14 Q. By May of 2011, did you believe TCIS was entitled to the  
15 first draw on the loan under the agreement that we discussed  
16 earlier?

17 A. Certainly, yes.

18 Q. Because the 60 business days had passed, is that correct?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. So looking at this paragraph here: As you may know, there  
21 may have been some recent, major events, particularly in Japan,  
22 that have severely delayed financial transaction pipelines on a  
23 global basis, including some portions of Cosmo Dabi pipelines.  
24 At this time I am experiencing some recoverable business delays  
25 as most are from the Japan events but remain fully optimistic

1 and do expect our transactional pipelines to revert to normal  
2 at fully stabilized levels shortly.

3 Dr. Penland, based on what Mr. Cosmo said in this  
4 paragraph of the e-mail, what was your understanding of how the  
5 tsunami in Japan had impacted his business?

6 A. It had slowed everything down, appeared like delayed  
7 financial transactions.

8 Q. At the time you read that paragraph of the letter, what did  
9 you think?

10 A. As I said before, the Japan sort of thing didn't ring real  
11 to me or true to me. It raised more questions than gave  
12 answers.

13 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Let's turn to the next paragraph.  
14 Just focus on that paragraph, Mr. Lachow.

15 Q. That said, the first draw will not occur within the 60  
16 international banking days set out in the private funding and  
17 security agreement executed January 19, 2011, whereby the IBD  
18 account commenced with the date Cosmo Dabi received your equity  
19 deposit, has cleared funds on January 27, 2011. However, I do  
20 expect the first draw funding will occur on or before the end  
21 of the 15 IBD grace period of 17 June 2011 and will provide a  
22 confirmed date as soon as I am certain that all key performance  
23 indicators will allow me to do so.

24 Dr. Penland, that portion of the paragraph, what was  
25 your understanding of when Mr. Cosmo was telling you he would

1 be able to get you the first draw by?

2 A. Well, including his grace days, he was saying June 17,  
3 2011.

4 Q. Did it make sense to you that June 17, 2011 would  
5 constitute the grace period or did you have some questions  
6 about that?

7 A. I had some questions about international banking days and  
8 what that really meant and how we were calculating them. Yes,  
9 I had questions.

10 Q. Leaving your questions aside, by June 17, at the latest,  
11 you thought you would get the first draw. Is that fair to say?

12 A. It's a confirmed date.

13 Q. Let's look at the next sentence: I have attached a copy of  
14 the bank account balance printed as of this morning. The only  
15 change made to the printout is my red pen.

16 Dr. Penland, what bank account balance did you believe  
17 Mr. Cosmo was referring to in this letter?

18 A. Our account balance.

19 Q. What funds specifically?

20 A. The funding from our 5.5 demonstrating that it had grown to  
21 this amount.

22 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Mr. Lachow, if you can put up the  
23 screen shot that's in the letter.

24 Q. This screen shot was pasted into this letter, correct, put  
25 in this letter?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What's the date of the screen shot?

3 A. 5/10/2011.

4 Q. And the number that's circled, what was that number?

5 A. \$12,594,563.52.

6 Q. Based on what Mr. Cosmo had said in the letter, what did  
7 you believe that number represented?

8 A. I assumed it represented the growth for our private funding  
9 account with them, the growth in it.

10 Q. You believe the money had grown to this amount?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Approximately \$12.5 million?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Dr. Penland, once you saw this letter showing what you  
15 believe to be growth of your funds to \$12.5 million, what, if  
16 anything, did that do to assuage any concerns that you had?

17 A. It didn't totally do away with them because I was starting  
18 to have concerns, but it was helpful. It encouraged me to see  
19 what appeared to look like our fund was growing. He actually  
20 had a fund and it was growing.

21 Q. Did you still believe that he may fund the first draw of  
22 the loan based on this?

23 A. I was hopeful.

24 Q. Dr. Penland, if it had turned out that the number that's  
25 circled in this document was not actually your account balance,



1 what steps, if any, would you have taken?

2 MR. DeMARCO: Objection. Calls for speculation, your  
3 Honor.

4 THE COURT: Counsel.

5 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, materiality is going to  
6 be relevant when it comes to one of the counts, materiality of  
7 the representations.

8 THE COURT: Mr. DeMarco.

9 MR. DeMARCO: I continue my objection, your Honor.

10 THE COURT: I'll permit it.

11 You may answer, sir. Do you need the question again?

12 THE WITNESS: Please.

13 THE COURT: Dr. Penland, if it turned out that the  
14 number that's circled in this document was not actually your  
15 account balance, what steps, if any, would you have taken?

16 THE WITNESS: Demanded my money back immediately,  
17 maybe go to the FBI or police.

18 Q. Since you saw the money had grown to \$12.5 million,  
19 according to the document, did you continue to wait for the  
20 first draw?

21 A. I did.

22 Q. Now, this letter said that by June 17, 2011, TCIS could  
23 expect the first installment of the loan, is that correct?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. Did TCIS in fact receive the first installment of the loan

1 by June 17, 2011?

2 A. No, sir.

3 Q. Looking at the last page of the letter, please coordinate a  
4 convenient time for you through Jay Pak or Pat Tsien at  
5 646-515-0108 for us to speak and for you to ask any questions  
6 you may have.

7 Dr. Penland, did any such phone call ever take place,  
8 to your knowledge?

9 A. I did not, no.

10 Q. Why didn't you ask for a phone call?

11 A. I believed that he was going to pay at that point. I was  
12 hoping that. And I was not trying to blow up the thing or push  
13 back on him, so I was hesitant.

14 Q. Dr. Penland, directing your attention to Government Exhibit  
15 309, do you recognize that document?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. What is it?

18 A. It's an e-mail to -- from Patricia Tsien to me and an  
19 e-mail from me to Patricia Tsien.

20 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, the government offers  
21 Government Exhibit 309.

22 MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

23 THE COURT: Received.

24 (Government Exhibit 309 received in evidence)

25 Q. Dr. Penland, looking at the top of the first page?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. This is from Patricia Tsien and you were on this e-mail, I  
3 believe?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Please see our response to Dr. Linton's request for clarity  
6 on our next steps. I'm available for a telephone conference  
7 call, as you refer. Who is Dr. Linton?

8 A. Dr. Linton was one of our board members.

9 Q. Was there an attachment to this e-mail?

10 A. Yes, there was.

11 Q. Now, this e-mail from Patricia Tsien is dated what?

12 A. June 26.

13 Q. Looking at the middle of the first page, was this e-mail  
14 from Patricia Tsien in response to anything you had written?

15 A. It's a response to my e-mail on June 21 to Mr. Cosmo and to  
16 the Omni Group.

17 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: If you could focus on that, Mr.  
18 Lachow. Maybe we could do the first half of the page first.

19 Q. Directing you to that first paragraph, I understand --  
20 first of all, the letter is addressed to William Cosmo among  
21 others, is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. I understand and believe that Omni, TCIS, and Mr. Cosmos  
24 now agree that our mutual contract has been officially violated  
25 as of June 17, 2011. Therefore, the following should occur per

1 the said contract. Funder shall have an additional 15  
2 international banking days IBD grace to disburse the first  
3 draw. IBD grace days have already passed.

4 What made you say that the grace days had passed, Dr.  
5 Penland?

6 A. That's what he had said in his letter.

7 Q. So you thought June 17 was when the grace days expired?

8 A. He had already agreed on that.

9 Q. Looking at the second paragraph, after which the private  
10 funding agreement automatically terminates until mutually  
11 agreed upon, to be discussed.

12 That is your commentary, I take it?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Looking at the third paragraph: Further, funder agrees to  
15 return the participation deposit in full within seven business  
16 days thereafter. Are these notes in parenthesis in caps your  
17 commentary?

18 A. It is.

19 Q. It is expected by TCIS for the funder to comply without  
20 exception. What were you asking for at this point, Dr.  
21 Penland?

22 A. Return of our deposit in full, participation deposit in  
23 full or equity deposit.

24 Q. Looking at the fourth paragraph, unless funder and TCIS  
25 mutually agree in writing to extend the first draw disbursement

1 date, and then your commentary: We have notified you  
2 repeatedly, through Mr. Hwang, that no agreement is possible  
3 for a first draw extension. At the least, we immediately need  
4 the complete return of our participation deposit fund.  
5 Following that we can discuss receiving further funding loans  
6 from a new contractual agreement.

7 What were you saying there, Dr. Penland?

8 A. We needed our money back. I thought he had \$12,000 in an  
9 account.

10 Q. 12,000?

11 A. 12 million. I'm sorry. We needed the five million back.  
12 If he would send that back, if he wanted to pick up the phone  
13 and we want to have a talk then about whether we want to go any  
14 further or not, that's something we could talk about and create  
15 a new contract to do that. But this was -- it was time to get  
16 things straight.

17 Q. Go to the second page.

18 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Can you just focus on the second  
19 and third paragraph, Mr. Lachow.

20 Q. What were you asking for in this e-mail, in this section of  
21 it, Dr. Penland?

22 A. That he fund the amount in full, \$5,500,000 as defined in  
23 the contract, and to wire it to Korea, and to confirm that with  
24 our personnel in Korea by June 28, 2011 at 5 p.m.

25 Q. Ms. Tsien responded to this e-mail in the e-mail at the top

1 of the first page, is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And then there was letter attached to her e-mail?

4 A. Yes.

5 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: If we can turn to the letter, Mr.  
6 Lachow.

7 Q. This was a letter from Cosmo Dabi, is that right?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. What was the date of the letter?

10 A. June 26.

11 Q. I then direct you to the second paragraph of the letter.

12 Currently, we are highly confident that we will meet a first  
13 draw on July 11, 2011, subject to completion of an audit of the  
14 project which is standard practice before each draw.

15 The reference to the audit in this letter, Dr.  
16 Penland, prior to receiving this letter, had Mr. Cosmo or  
17 anyone from Omni ever told you that an audit would be required  
18 before your school could receive the first draw?

19 A. No, sir.

20 Q. And the first time that this audit was brought up with you,  
21 was that after you had sent your e-mail demanding the deposit  
22 back?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. What did you think when you read that an audit was now  
25 going to be necessary?

1 A. This is crazy.

2 Q. Did you wonder why no one had brought up the audit with you  
3 earlier?

4 A. Sure.

5 Q. Let's keep going through this paragraph. As this first  
6 draw, we would like to start the audit as soon as possible  
7 because it will take longer to develop the baseline for this  
8 draw than subsequent ones. Did you understand that what meant?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. What did you think it meant?

11 A. He was trying to help us get it done as quickly as possible  
12 and we are going to be -- somehow we were being inspected -- we  
13 had given him money, but he was now inspecting us and he had  
14 not given us any money. I can understand if he's not going to  
15 give us -- if he doesn't want to give us any loans, but this is  
16 crazy when we are asking for our deposit back.

17 Q. Then the last sentence of this paragraph: We want to  
18 reiterate that these are highly unusual times and that Cosmo  
19 Dabi had taken every effort and extraordinary steps to mitigate  
20 the effect of the current economic and business climate while  
21 still performing within the confines of our agreement.

22 What were your thoughts when you read that at the  
23 time?

24 A. Honestly, just give me my money back. I don't know what  
25 your problems are and I'm sorry for your business, but I need

1 my money back to do my business.

2 Q. Did you actually think that these were such extraordinary  
3 times, based on what you were seeing in Asia?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Overall, after you read this letter, what was your  
6 takeaway? What did you think Mr. Cosmo was trying to do?

7 A. Keep our money, not give it back, and keep finding new ways  
8 to figure out ways to delay that first draw.

9 Q. I am going to direct you to Government Exhibit 161. Do you  
10 recognize this document?

11 A. Yes, I do.

12 Q. What is it?

13 A. It's another e-mail chain from Patricia Tsien to me and  
14 Cosmo Dabi to Patricia and myself back to Patricia.

15 Q. You were a party to this e-mail exchange?

16 A. All of it, yes.

17 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, the government offers  
18 Government Exhibit 161.

19 MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

20 THE COURT: Received.

21 (Government Exhibit 161 received in evidence)

22 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Looking at the top of the first  
23 page, Mr. Lachow.

24 Q. Who was this e-mail from?

25 A. This e-mail was from Patricia Tsien.



1 Q. When was it sent?

2 A. June 29, 2011.

3 Q. I am going to ask you to look at paragraph 1. Can you read  
4 that, Dr. Penland.

5 A. This e-mail contains two highly --

6 Q. The paragraph numbered No. 1.

7 A. No. 1: Unless I receive a rescission of your e-mail with  
8 subject official response to breach of contract, I will be  
9 forced to forward that e-mail onto Cosmo Dabi which will set in  
10 motion the termination of the funding agreement. The deposit  
11 cannot be returned without such termination. In addition for  
12 us to continue, which we want to do, I need an explicit  
13 acknowledgement that you are extending the time frame for the  
14 first draw.

15 Q. So, if you ask for your deposit back, what was going to  
16 happen, according to Ms. Tsien?

17 A. The funding agreement was going to be terminated.

18 Q. Did Ms. Tsien want to continue with trying to provide your  
19 school a loan, according to this?

20 A. She was asking whether or not I wanted to actually -- her  
21 to move this forward to Cosmo Dabi. She was questioning  
22 whether I really wanted to do that, terminate the agreement.

23 Q. Looking at paragraph No. 2, every time you telegraph your  
24 doubts and possible desire for the return of the deposit, which  
25 requires termination, Cosmo Dabi is required to slow down and

1 eventually suspend trading to be prepared for your decision to  
2 terminate. This slowdown, compounded by world events, has  
3 been, unintelligible, delays. As such, we need your decision  
4 ASAP on how to proceed since TCIS is losing valuable time in  
5 achieving its goal of funding as soon as possible.

6 Cosmo recounts the impact of your actions in this  
7 regard since April and has e-mailed below. In that same e-mail  
8 he also confirms that he is prepared to do his very best on  
9 behalf of TCIS.

10 Based on this portion of the e-mail, the paragraphs we  
11 just read, what was Ms. Tsien telling you was the impact of  
12 your requesting a refund of the five and a half million  
13 dollars?

14 A. That we were going to again slow him down from growing our  
15 money.

16 Q. And then if you can look at page 2, Ms. Tsien referenced  
17 that Cosmo recounted something in the e-mail below, is that  
18 correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Looking at page 2, that top e-mail there, who is this  
21 e-mail between?

22 A. Cosmo Dabi, CEO@Cosmo Dabi.com and Patricia Tsien.

23 Q. Did Ms. Tsien forward this e-mail to you?

24 A. Yes. This is what she was referring to in her other  
25 e-mail.

1 Q. Taking a look at the first paragraph, we have had  
2 serious -- when was this e-mail from?

3 A. June 28, associated with an April 7 e-mail.

4 Q. But this e-mail is June 28?

5 A. Yes, it is.

6 Q. We have had serious discussions about the TCIS refund on  
7 and prior to April 7. The net was that they did not want it.

8 Did you understand what this was referring to, Dr.

9 Penland?

10 A. Can you say that again, sir.

11 Q. Do you recall TCIS actually asking for a refund on April 7,  
12 Dr. Penland?

13 A. No, sir.

14 Q. Did that make any sense to you?

15 A. No, it did not.

16 Q. That occasion took trading time away. This occasion  
17 regarding refund, etc., takes trading time away, in addition to  
18 the global events and upcoming audit requirements. The second  
19 folks start talking refund or becoming unstable, I cease  
20 activity as it should be. In this case, some of the perceived  
21 delays, based on projected timelines, were caused by their own  
22 actions. Stop and go flow of the dollars retards velocity,  
23 especially when large trades or investments are teed up and  
24 ready to go.

25 Dr. Penland, what did you understand Mr. Cosmo to be

1 saying in this e-mail regarding the effect of your school  
2 demanding a refund?

3 A. That we were -- he was implying that we were to blame for  
4 the money not growing the way it should because we were  
5 hesitating or pulling out or withdrawing, and he had things  
6 teed up and ready to go.

7 Q. Under the contract that you signed, did you believe you  
8 were entitled to a refund at this point?

9 A. Absolutely.

10 Q. And these transactions that are referred to that large  
11 trades or investments are teed up and ready to go. Did you  
12 have any understanding what those might be?

13 A. Well, a few months earlier I would have thought maybe he's  
14 doing something with it, but I wasn't sure at all at this  
15 point. I just wanted our funds back, honestly, sir.

16 Q. Looking at the next paragraph, they for sure caused a  
17 stop-and-go scenario and delay on getting back to us on what  
18 they wanted to do.

19 Dr. Penland, before June of 2011, had you ever asked  
20 for a refund?

21 A. No, sir.

22 Q. As well as the account in question, changing an answer from  
23 when we started, causing a delay in the audit start. Had you  
24 been told about the audit, Dr. Penland, from the get-go?

25 A. No, sir. I had been told before that, June 21 letter or 26

1 letter.

2 Q. Can you take a look at Government Exhibit 316. Do you  
3 recognize that document?

4 A. I do.

5 Q. Is this an e-mail exchange that you're a party to?

6 A. Yes. This was a letter I sent to Mr. Cosmo and the Omni  
7 Group.

8 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: The government offers 316.

9 MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

10 (Government Exhibit 316 received in evidence)

11 Q. Dr. Penland, looking at the first page, this was July 5, is  
12 that correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I have edited the letter response and have placed it on  
15 TCIS school letterhead. I trust that with this response we  
16 have a way forward to July 11, 2011, and we can reach some  
17 resolution of the matters of concerns to all parties in one way  
18 or another on that date.

19 Dr. Penland, turning to the letter, do you recall  
20 drafting this?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. And who is it addressed to?

23 A. Mr. William Cosmo, Cosmo Dabi International Trading Group,  
24 Inc. and Mr. Thomas Cleveland, Mr. Jay Pak, Ms. Patricia Tsien,  
25 and Omni Holdings Group.

1 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Looking at the second page, the  
2 last page Mr. Lachow.

3 Q. In this letter, Dr. Penland, generally did you lay out your  
4 views as to TCIS's position as to the loan?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: The upshot of the letter, if you  
7 can go to those numbered paragraphs, Mr. Lachow.

8 Q. What were you offering at this point with respect to  
9 receiving the loan, Dr. Penland?

10 A. We were offering additional grace days until July 11, per  
11 his request.

12 Q. Dr. Penland, the decision to grant additional grace days,  
13 was that your decision or whose decision was it?

14 A. It was the board of trustees decision. I did not support  
15 that.

16 Q. Ultimately, do you answer to the board of trustees?

17 A. I do.

18 Q. If they tell you you have to do something, do you have to  
19 do it?

20 A. I should.

21 Q. Looking at the second paragraph, what were you agreeing to  
22 there?

23 A. Accept compliance with the first drawn is a good-faith  
24 action that implies you intend to abide by the contract, and we  
25 will await the next draw as defined in the contract.

Q. If they weren't going to provide the first draw by July 11, what were you asking for in the third paragraph?

A. Except the return of our original participation deposit funds by July 11, 2011, and interpreted, as a mutual agreement, that the contract has been terminated.

Q. And past July 11, was your school willing to entertain any further delays, according to this letter?

A. They were not at that time. We were not.

Q. You could look at Government Exhibit 214. Do you recognize that document?

A. Yes.

Q. What is it?

A. It's an e-mail exchange again between Patricia Tsien and I and Cosmo Dabi.

MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, the government offers Government Exhibit 214.

MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

THE COURT: Received.

(Government Exhibit 214 received in evidence)

MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Mr. Lachow, if we can publish the first page and focus on the paragraph at the bottom that says third, the overall.

Q. Was this in response to the letter that you had sent to them, this e-mail?

A. Yes.

1 Q. Just looking at the second sentence: Asking us to move to  
2 a position of forthrightness and integrity, and deliver as  
3 promised in our agreement the first draw, is an inappropriate  
4 description of our actions, the most important being that the  
5 agreements targeted or projected funding dates not promised or  
6 guaranteed any funding dates.

7 Dr. Penland, based on your review of what the  
8 agreement said, did you think that that draw schedule were just  
9 projections or were those hard and fast dates?

10 A. Those were agreed-upon days.

11 Q. We can also accept that what CDI does can appear  
12 mysterious, but that does not mean that we have not been  
13 forthright. While retail banking customers have not been  
14 impacted, commercial and investment banking customers certainly  
15 have been.

16 Dr. Penland, based on this statement, did you have any  
17 sense of what types of investments Cosmo Dabi was making with  
18 the five and a half million dollars?

19 A. Yes. Honestly, I didn't believe anything at this point,  
20 sir, but they were inferring or implying that he was doing  
21 something with it outside of the traditional banking process,  
22 totally off the boat at this point.

23 Q. A few sentences down: CDI's ability to meet the projected  
24 dates is directly impacted by the slowdown in the transaction  
25 pipeline. Did you have any idea what the transaction pipeline



1 was at this point?

2 A. I assumed that it was referring back to the financial  
3 pipeline and to buys, trade, sell and all those things.

4 Q. Did anything in this paragraph make much sense to you?

5 A. Not in terms of where we were at at that point, not to me.

6 Q. Looking at Government Exhibit 166 --

7 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: One moment, your Honor.

8 Q. Dr. Penland, is 166 in front of you?

9 A. No, sir.

10 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, may we approach with  
11 the exhibit.

12 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

13 Q. Dr. Penland, do you recognize this document?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. What is it?

16 A. It's an e-mail exchange between myself and Patricia Tsien  
17 and others.

18 Q. Was there an attachment to this e-mail?

19 A. Yes, there was.

20 Q. What was that?

21 A. It was a July 7 letter that I was asked to send on behalf  
22 of our board.

23 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, the government offers  
24 Government Exhibit 166.

25 MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

1 THE COURT: Received.

2 (Government Exhibit 166 received in evidence)

3 Q. Dr. Penland, looking at the top e-mail, 166. I have an  
4 attached an updated letter from TCIS officially approving the  
5 new July 11, 2011 first draw, per the request from you and  
6 Mr. Cosmo. We truly hope that you can assist us with going  
7 forward with our agreements on this date.

8 Dr. Penland, were you directed to do this by your  
9 board of directors?

10 A. I was.

11 Q. Looking at the letter at the last page --

12 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: If you could just zoom in.

13 Q. -- who is the letter to?

14 A. To William Cosme and to the others at the OmniHolding  
15 Group, Thomas Cleveland, Jay Pak, Patricia Tsien.

16 Q. This letter is much shorter than your last letter, is that  
17 fair to say?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. Is there any reason for that?

20 A. I was told word for word what to write here.

21 Q. We, Dr. Penland, and the TCIS BOT -- is that the board?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. -- have reviewed your request to have the date extended to  
24 July 11, 2011 for the agreed-upon first draw date for the  
25 funding for the Taejon Christian International School project.

1 Dr. Penland, pausing there, if your school had not  
2 agreed to this extension, what was supposed to happen under the  
3 agreement?

4 A. We should have had our full deposit returned.

5 Q. Five and a half million?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. Your school was agreeing to another extension, is that fair  
8 to say?

9 A. We were.

10 Q. We look forward to the good-faith completion of all  
11 agreements by all parties. In summary, we inform you today of  
12 the following actions: Grant additional grace days until July  
13 11, 2011 per your request; accept compliance with the first  
14 draw on July 11, 2011.

15 Giving them, in sum, another extension, is that right?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. Dr. Penland, if I could direct you to Government Exhibit  
18 354, do you recognize that document?

19 A. I do.

20 Q. What is it?

21 A. It's an e-mail from Patricia Tsien to me and from me to  
22 Patricia Tsien.

23 Q. Do you recall receiving these e-mails?

24 A. I do.

25 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, the government offers

Government Exhibit 354.

MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

THE COURT: Received.

(Government Exhibit 354 received in evidence)

Q. Dr. Penland, let's look at the e-mail at the bottom of the first page. This is from you, is that correct?

A. That's correct.

Q. When is this from?

A. This is August 13, 2011, Saturday.

Q. Thank you for your update to Mr. Thomas Hwang last Thursday. On behalf of our BOT and myself from your e-mail below, can you now guarantee for our BOT and school community that Mr. Cosmo and the auditors will be on site next week and that a first draw would be forthcoming immediately, after their visit, by the end of the week. We are now approaching 60 days past the June 17 date and must consider all options as our school is at great risk.

Dr. Penland, it's already August. Has your school asked for the money back yet? Because your letter had said a different date, correct?

A. We had asked for him to comply on July 11.

Q. He still hadn't complied, is that right?

A. That's correct.

Q. What were you told was going to be the last step before he could comply?

1 A. Say that again, sir.

2 Q. What were you told was still going to be necessary before  
3 he could provide the draw?

4 A. Now he wanted an audit completed.

5 Q. At this point had the school had to take any steps with  
6 respect to the construction project?

7 A. It had stopped.

8 Q. It had to halt construction?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Looking at the top e-mail, who is this from?

11 A. Patricia Tsien.

12 Q. Who is it to?

13 A. To me.

14 Q. Dr. Penland, Mr. Cosmo's team will definitely be on site  
15 this coming week, as we said, and we will fund the first draw  
16 immediately upon the successful completion of the audit. But  
17 we cannot guarantee that the first draw will be unconditionally  
18 disbursed to TCIS by the end of the week, rather remains  
19 dependent upon the actual completion of the audit. The benefit  
20 of the preaudit work conducted in NY is to ensure that the  
21 onsite audit will move quickly along and so far no  
22 insurmountable issues have been identified.

23 Ms. Tsien references some preaudit work that was being  
24 done?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Did you have any knowledge of what that referred to?

2 A. I knew that Thomas Hwang was providing documents to them  
3 and giving them information all along in late July and early  
4 August, preparing for the audit.

5 Q. Based on what Ms. Tsien is saying here, what sense did you  
6 have about whether that was going poorly or well?

7 A. Seemed to be going well.

8 Q. Did you expect, based on this e-mail, that there would be  
9 any issues? No insurmountable issues have been identified.

10 A. Based on the e-mail, no. My own feelings, very skeptical  
11 at this point, sir.

12 Q. What were you skeptical?

13 A. Because of the delays repeatedly on and on and all the  
14 stuff. We were getting scammed, from my point of view, at this  
15 point.

16 Q. But the decision was made to go forward with the audit, is  
17 that correct?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. Sounds like you weren't necessarily the one recommending  
20 that. Is that fair?

21 A. I recommended that we come to New York and meet with the  
22 FBI and confront this situation. I recommended that the last  
23 week of June, sir.

24 Q. Did you also recommend taking formal steps to return the  
25 deposit.

1 A. Of course, yes, sir.

2 Q. Seeking the return.

3 A. I had written that, yes, sir.

4 Q. Who had primary responsibility for dealing with this audit?

5 A. Mr. Thomas Hwang.

6 Q. Did you have primary responsible for it?

7 A. No, sir.

8 Q. Did you have much in the way of contact with the audit  
9 process?

10 A. No, sir. I met the auditor one time on the site for maybe  
11 20 minutes. Went out a second time on the site because I was  
12 on the site and thought she would be there, but she wasn't  
13 present at that time. That's the only time I met with the  
14 auditor. And Thomas Hwang, he just kept telling me, we were  
15 doing fine, the audit was going OK.

16 Q. You mentioned you met the auditor. How long did you meet  
17 that person?

18 A. About 20 minutes, maybe 15 or to 20 minutes. Not long.

19 Q. I am going to direct you to Government Exhibit 177. Let me  
20 know if you recognize that document.

21 A. I do.

22 Q. What is it?

23 A. It's an e-mail from Thomas Hwang to the board and to me,  
24 and it includes audit status report and there is an e-mail from  
25 Joe Lovell to the board and me and Mr. Hwang.

1 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, the government offers  
2 Government Exhibit 177.

3 MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

4 THE COURT: Received.

5 (Government Exhibit 177 received in evidence)

6 Q. Included with this e-mail, was there a letter from Cosmo  
7 Dabi?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Who is that letter addressed to?

10 A. To me.

11 Q. Did this letter overall pertain to the audit that was  
12 conducted?

13 A. Yes, it does.

14 Q. Generally speaking, what did Mr. Cosmo tell you about the  
15 audit?

16 A. There were some things additionally that he needed.

17 Q. Dr. Penland, had TCIS been subject to prior audits before  
18 this?

19 A. External financial audits were done for 20 years by  
20 exemplary companies in Korea.

21 Q. Who was TCIS's auditor at this time?

22 A. Most recently that would have been KPMG at that time.

23 Q. What, if any, had KPMG identified with respect to how TCIS  
24 kept its record, its recordkeeping?

25 A. Well, KPMG made certain recommendations to us regarding the



management of our business office and we followed up on those. Our accounts were always in good shape and we passed audit every time. They did have management issues. But their biggest concern in 2010 was the funding of the project.

Q. Did KPMG ever identify any serious issues with the method in which TCIS was keeping records?

A. Our business practice was excellent.

Q. I am going to direct you to 179. Do you recognize that document, sir?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is that?

A. This was what he called an audit cure report that was sent to me, attachment from an e-mail from Patricia Tsien to our board, copied to me and Mr. Hwang.

MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor the government offers Government Exhibit 179.

MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

THE COURT: Received.

(Government Exhibit 179 received in evidence)

A. August 31.

Q. Take a look at the first paragraph. Attached as the cure report prepared by Cosmo Dabi audit team which reports the facts and highlights errors, omissions and deficiencies in the way TCIS has been managing and controlling the new campus construction.

1 Dr. Penland, at this point, when you received this  
2 e-mail, did you believe Mr. Cosmo had identified real  
3 deficiencies or did you believe something else?

4 A. I believe that he had identified that we had a financial  
5 need and a financial crisis at our school. I don't think he  
6 identified mismanagement or inappropriate business practice at  
7 our school.

8 Q. Why did the school find itself in a financial need?

9 A. Because the loan or investor plan, the loan agreement had  
10 failed to materialize, and we did not have the funding for the  
11 project, and the project had stopped and we had spent  
12 operational funds to keep that going because we believed there  
13 would be a draw or a funding of the project.

14 Q. The five and a half million dollars, did you have that  
15 money back at this point?

16 A. No, sir.

17 Q. So you were out five and a half million at the moment?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Looking at this letter that was attached, what was the  
20 upshot of the letter? Had you passed audit or had you failed  
21 the audit?

22 A. We had many things that needed to be cured or addressed in  
23 order for him to be able to loan the money or fulfill his part  
24 of the agreement.

25 Q. Directing you to page 3 of the attached audit cure report.

1 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Mr. Lachow, if you could focus on  
2 the paragraph that says remember.

3 Q. Directing you to where it says: Dr. Penland stated  
4 emphatically and to us in December 2010 in New York that the  
5 project was 85 percent complete and TCIS only required 35  
6 million to complete phase I, including payback of existing  
7 lenders. Under Dr. Penland's management, he has twice stopped  
8 the funding process by threatening to report Cosmo Dabi to U.S.  
9 authorities for misconduct, etc., a completely baseless  
10 allegation, and based on our agreements, he is required to  
11 follow proper protocols upon any disagreements and which he has  
12 completely ignored.

13 Dr. Penland, this portion of the report states that  
14 you believed you only needed 35 million for phase I of the  
15 project and somehow that was a misrepresentation. Did you  
16 believe that there was only 35 million needed for phase I?

17 A. I actually thought it was less than that, between 20 and 30  
18 million, more closer to 20.

19 Q. Overall, that highlighted paragraph that's on the screen,  
20 did you agree with any of the characterization of your actions  
21 in that paragraph?

22 A. No, sir.

23 Q. Once you received this letter from Cosmo Dabi and from  
24 Mr. Cosmo, what did you recommend to the board to be the  
25 school's next step?

1 A. Same as I had been recommending all along, that we proceed  
2 with legally doing whatever we needed to do to try to address  
3 the issue and hopefully get our funding back.

4 Q. Did that include formally demanding the five and a half  
5 million dollar deposit back?

6 A. Sure.

7 (Continued on next page)

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1 Q. You could take a look at Government Exhibit 360. Do you  
2 recognize that document?

3 A. Yes, I do.

4 Q. What is it?

5 A. It's an email from Patricia Tsien to me copied to Thomas  
6 Hwang and to the board of trustees at TCIS and to CEO Cosmo  
7 Dabi.

8 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, the government offers  
9 360.

10 MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

11 THE COURT: Received.

12 (Government's Exhibit 360 received in evidence)

13 Q. So, focusing on the bottom half of the email.

14 A. This include in here an email from Cosmo Dabi to Patricia  
15 Tsien and sent to me.

16 Q. Right, but let's look at the bottom email.

17 A. That's the one I'm talking about.

18 Q. Right. So this was from Cosmo Dabi?

19 A. Yes, it was.

20 Q. This was then forwarded to you?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So this email reads, "Dear Dr. Penland/TCIS: Please be  
23 advised that you are in default of your obligations as per the  
24 terms and conditions of the private funding and security  
25 agreement dated January 19, 2011. A certified hard copy has

1 been sent to you. This default determination is based on the  
2 audit results and is in effect as of 29 August 2011."

3 Dr. Penland, did Mr. Cosmo claim you were in default  
4 in conjunction with receiving the audit findings?

5 A. I assumed that's what it was connected to.

6 Q. Now, at this point, once you got this email, what did you  
7 expect to be the next natural step under your agreement?

8 A. That he would return the funds and -- well, at this point--

9 Q. Which funds?

10 A. The private -- the equity deposit or the participation  
11 deposit.

12 Q. The five and a half million?

13 A. \$5.5 million.

14 Q. Let's take a look at Government Exhibit 181. Do you  
15 recognize that document?

16 A. I do.

17 Q. What is it?

18 A. It's minutes of an extraordinary board meeting for parents  
19 to come in and address their concerns about the financial  
20 condition at TCIS.

21 Q. Were you present at this meeting?

22 A. I was.

23 Q. Is this document minutes of that meeting?

24 A. It is.

25 Q. Were those minutes kept in the regularly conducted activity

1 of the school?

2 A. Sure.

3 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, the government offers  
4 181.

5 MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

6 THE COURT: Received.

7 (Government's Exhibit 181 received in evidence)

8 Q. Dr. Penland, directing you towards the line towards the  
9 middle at the bottom that states "11 - 17."

10 The bottom part, Mr. Lachow.

11 "Voted to request the return of the deposit of  
12 \$5.5 million from Cosmo Dabi, Inc., New York City, New York  
13 with the funds recovered paid to GSIS to help repay the TCIS  
14 loan to GSIS."

15 So was a formal vote taken at that point?

16 A. There was.

17 Q. What did they vote?

18 A. They voted unanimously to send a letter to Mr. Cosmo asking  
19 for the participation deposit back.

20 Q. That's the \$5 and a half million deposit?

21 A. It is.

22 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: You can take that down, Mr. Lachow.

23

24 Q. Can you take a look at 183, Dr. Penland? Do you recognize  
25 that document?

1 A. 183. Yes, sir.

2 Q. What is it?

3 A. It's an email chain, all of it about the deposit return  
4 request and the urgency of it and official letter from me  
5 requesting the return.

6 Q. You were a party to this email chain?

7 A. Sure. Yes.

8 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, the government offers  
9 183.

10 MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

11 THE COURT: Received.

12 (Government's Exhibit 183 received in evidence)

13 Q. Looking at the top email, Dr. Penland. This was from  
14 Thomas Hwang. What's the date of this email?

15 A. September 1.

16 Q. It reads, "Please deliver this request to Cosmo Dabi ASAP.  
17 We would like the deposit to returned by the specified date in  
18 the letter or ASAP."

19 Was there an attachment to this email?

20 A. There was.

21 Q. Looking at the last page of the document, who is this  
22 letter from?

23 A. This is from me.

24 Q. Who is it to?

25 A. To Cosmo Dabi, Inc., William Cosmo.



1 Q. If you could focus on the first paragraph, Mr. Lachow.

2 So, "I, Dr. Thomas J. Penland, headmaster of TCIS,  
3 hereby request the return of \$5.5 million by September 21,  
4 2011, which was deposited to JP Morgan Chase Bank N.A. on the  
5 date of January 21, 2011 as specified in the attachment."

6 First of all, Dr. Penland, this was the formal request  
7 for the return of the deposit. Is that correct?

8 A. Yes, this was authorized by the board of trustees, and I  
9 was instructed by them and the parent group there to send it.

10 Q. Why was a delay provided until September 21, 2011?

11 A. That date was the date that Thomas Hwang negotiated with  
12 them on a sort of agreed-upon date, September 21.

13 Q. Then below this paragraph, is this just the information  
14 about where the \$5 and a half million deposit should be  
15 returned?

16 A. It gives our banking account, the KEB account.

17 Q. Then looking at that last paragraph, "Although I am very  
18 disappointed about funding delays since April of 2011, the  
19 board has instructed me not to raise any legal issues against  
20 Omni or Cosmo Dabi, Inc. about our funding agreement in the  
21 future if you return our deposit by September 21, 2011."

22 Dr. Penland, is that consistent with what the board  
23 has instructed you?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. Just seek the equity deposit back?

1 A. Just try to get the money back.

2 Q. So, if you could go back to the first page of the document,  
3 the bottom half. Was this Ms. Tsien's response to your letter?

4 A. Yes, it was.

5 Q. Looking at the second sentence, was it your understanding  
6 that Omni would abide by the school's wishes?

7 A. That is what she said.

8 Q. Meaning what? What did you understand that to mean?

9 A. That they would abide by our wishes and return our funds.

10 Q. And then the next paragraph said, "That said, Cosmo  
11 suggests an exit meeting to provide concrete feedback and  
12 recommendations that might be helpful to you as you move  
13 forward with getting control over the project and completing  
14 the development."

15 Did you ever have an exit meeting with Mr. Cosmo?

16 A. No.

17 Q. If you can take a look at 185. Do you recognize that  
18 document, sir?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. What is it?

21 A. It's an email from CEO Cosmo Dabi to Thomas Hwang copied to  
22 me and others, some of our parents, our two parent leaders and  
23 our board chair.

24 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: The government offers 185, your  
25 Honor.

1 MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

2 THE COURT: Received.

3 (Government's Exhibit 185 received in evidence)

4 Q. When was this email sent, Dr. Penland?

5 A. September 3.

6 Q. And the letter you sent formally demanding back the equity  
7 deposit, was that sent a few days earlier?

8 A. September 1, it was an August 31 date on the letter, but  
9 the email date was September 1, Korea time.

10 Q. In this email, Mr. Cosmo was writing to you, it appears, or  
11 is it to Mr. Hwang?

12 A. No, it's to Mr. Hwang.

13 Q. If you could just read that for us?

14 A. "Hello Thomas: I will certainly address your deposit  
15 within the time lines you all set within Dr. P's letter post  
16 TCIS default. Please forward this to Dr. P as well. But no  
17 more weekends after this one."

18 Q. If you could turn to 186, Dr. Penland. Do you recognize  
19 that document?

20 A. I do.

21 Q. What is it?

22 A. It's an email from CEO Cosmo Dabi to our board and to me  
23 and Thomas Hwang copied to Patricia Tsien and Tom Cleveland.

24 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, the government offers  
25 186.

1 MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

2 THE COURT: Received.

3 (Government's Exhibit 186 received in evidence)

4 Q. When was this email sent, Dr. Penland?

5 A. This was on September 7.

6 Q. What was the subject of this email?

7 A. It was a discussion about the equity deposit, equity  
8 deposit refund demand or request.

9 Q. If we could look at the bolded paragraph about three  
10 paragraphs down, Mr. Lachow.

11 "Please review the below facts which will hopefully  
12 better aid you in understanding the situation as it currently  
13 stands and how they have added layers of complexities to the  
14 magnitude of the most challenging business issues you are  
15 currently facing, all of which were created by TCIS."

16 Dr. Penland, at this time, did you believe that the  
17 issues with respect to the funding of the loan had been created  
18 by TCIS as Mr. Cosmo claims in this letter?

19 A. No, sir.

20 Q. What did you believe had created the issues, if anything?

21 A. His inability to perform anything, to return anything.

22 Q. Or to fund the loan, right?

23 A. That's what I'm saying. Even fund enough of the first draw  
24 that we'd cover our original deposit.

25 Q. Let's look at the paragraph numbered paragraph one.

1 "TCIS is aware and has acknowledged slipping into default  
2 as clearly defined by the terms, conditions and definitions of  
3 the private funding and security agreement executed on  
4 January 19, 2011."

5 Dr. Penland, had TCIS acknowledged slipping into  
6 default as Mr. Cosmo claims here?

7 A. No one that I know, my board nor myself, had ever  
8 acknowledged that.

9 Q. Did you believe that TCIS had taken any actions that would  
10 put it in default?

11 A. No, sir.

12 Q. And who did you think, if anybody, had defaulted on the  
13 agreement by this point?

14 A. Mr. Cosmo.

15 Q. Take a look at paragraph two.

16 "TCIS has failed audit 1 of 4 required customary  
17 financial and technical audits and has not permitted Cosmo Dabi  
18 to perform any further required audits/due diligence after the  
19 TCIS failure of audit 1."

20 Dr. Penland, in your view, at this point, was  
21 discussion of any further audits relevant?

22 A. Why am I getting audited? I gave him \$5 and a half  
23 million.

24 MR. DeMARCO: Objection, your Honor.

25 A. And I just want the money back.

1 THE COURT: Sir, would you be kind enough --

2 THE WITNESS: I'm trying to be kind ma'am.

3 THE COURT: I know that. Would you listen to  
4 counsel's question?

5 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

6 THE COURT: And then answer that question?

7 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

8 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: I'm going to rephrase the question,  
9 your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Go ahead, sir.

11 BY MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK:

12 Q. Dr. Penland, in your view, given at this point TCIS had  
13 decided not to move forward with the loan but instead was  
14 requesting a return of their deposit, was the audit relevant at  
15 that point?

16 A. No, sir, I could not understand why we needed to be audited  
17 to get our funds back.

18 Q. Was an audit in your view only relevant if you were  
19 continuing to seek a loan?

20 A. That I could understand.

21 Q. But if you were just seeking your deposit back, would an  
22 audit be relevant?

23 A. Not at all in my opinion.

24 Q. Take a look at paragraph three.

25 "TCIS has not offered to and has declined to discuss

1 the cure to the failed audit."

2 Dr. Penland, once the school was told by Mr. Cosmo he  
3 believed it had failed the audit, what did it ask for?

4 A. We asked for our deposit back.

5 Q. Take a look at paragraph four.

6 "Refund request. By end of day September 9, 2011,  
7 Cosmo Dabi will calculate the loss, expenses, etc. for Cosmo  
8 Dabi as permitted in our agreements upon default, etc. ... and  
9 assuming there is a true balance due TCIS, I would immediately  
10 work to refund deposit monies ASAP."

11 Dr. Penland, at this point, when Mr. Cosmo said that  
12 assuming "there is a true balance due," did that make any sense  
13 to you?

14 A. No, sir. A full deposit return was what I understood was  
15 the agreement.

16 Q. Under the terms of that agreement we went over, did you  
17 believe that if the first draw wasn't funded, that you were  
18 entitled to your equity deposit back in full?

19 A. Absolutely.

20 Q. So this discussion of whether there was a true balance due,  
21 did you believe that was consistent or inconsistent with your  
22 agreement?

23 A. Inconsistent.

24 Q. If you could turn to paragraph 6.

25 "The current contract executed has been diminished in

1 value to a zero street value due to TCIS's default. TCIS based  
2 on material breach of contract, default and apparent false  
3 statements made by your headmaster in our face-to-face meetings  
4 with TCIS here in NYC prior to and after the execution of our  
5 agreements, and the lack of transparency associated with the  
6 November KPMG management letter. It is customary for banks and  
7 other private lenders to either sell the mortgage payments due  
8 to them or, minimally, to retain the value of the future stream  
9 of mortgage payment due them on the lender's balance sheet."

10 By the way, Dr. Penland, this first part of the  
11 paragraph talks about false representations being made in New  
12 York and the like. Did you agree with that description of what  
13 happened at the meeting?

14 A. I did not.

15 Q. Did you believe that you had been forthright during the  
16 meeting?

17 A. I had been forthright.

18 Q. Let's continue.

19 "Given the doubtful ability of TCIS as of this time to  
20 repay the loan, it would be dishonest for me to sell your  
21 mortgage in the secondary market, and I certainly cannot place  
22 it on my company's balance sheet. Again, it is unfortunate  
23 that Dr. Penland did not disclose TCIS's true status when we  
24 met, as we would likely have been able to structure the  
25 transaction to accommodate TCIS's situation."



1 Dr. Penland, I have a few questions about this. First  
2 of all, at this point, had any loan been provided?

3 A. No, sir.

4 Q. So was there any loan to resell in a secondary market?

5 A. No, sir.

6 Q. At this juncture, was TCIS even seeking a loan any more?

7 A. No, sir.

8 Q. What were you seeking?

9 A. Our return of our deposit.

10 Q. Mr. Cosmo's reference to a mortgage, was TCIS obtaining a  
11 mortgage from Mr. Cosmo to your knowledge?

12 A. No, sir.

13 Q. If TCIS was no longer seeking a loan from Cosmo Dabi and  
14 solely wanted its deposit back, did you have any understanding  
15 of what Mr. Cosmo was referring to with respect to the stream  
16 of mortgage payments he would be seeking to resell in a  
17 secondary market? Did that make any sense to you?

18 A. None at all.

19 Q. Looking at paragraph seven.

20 "If you wish to engage in some form of workout, I am  
21 willing to consider such, but I cannot do anything that will  
22 further compromise my position."

23 Dr. Penland, at this point, am I correct that  
24 Mr. Cosmo's company still had your \$5 and a half million?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. So when he referred to compromising his position, did you  
2 have any understanding of what that meant?

3 A. No, sir.

4 Q. Moving to the next page, page 2., the top paragraph.

5 "The circumstances" -- if you could just focus on the  
6 top paragraph, Mr. Lachow.

7 "The circumstances are unfortunate and exclusively due  
8 to the challenges brought upon me by TCIS. This is not a  
9 failure of Cosmo Dabi to perform nor is it a crime committed by  
10 Cosmo Dabi as some of you had indicated. It is simply TCIS not  
11 yet performing to the levels required to enable a \$55 million  
12 funding based on what all parties had contractually agreed  
13 upon."

14 Dr. Penland, at this point, again, was TCIS asking for  
15 a loan?

16 A. No, sir.

17 Q. You just wanted the deposit back. Is that correct?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. Under your agreement, if the first draw wasn't paid by a  
20 certain deadline, what were you entitled to?

21 A. Full refund of our deposit.

22 Q. And this last paragraph of the email, Mr. Cosmo offered to  
23 have face-to-face meetings here in NYC, conference calls and/or  
24 email exchanges if they will be productive."

25 Did you ever take Mr. Cosmo up on that offer?

1 A. I was told never to communicate again with him by our board  
2 of trustees.

3 Q. I am going to direct you to Government Exhibit 187,  
4 Dr. Penland. Let me know once you've reviewed that document.  
5 Do you recognize that document, sir?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. What is it?

8 A. It's an exchange of email between CEO Cosmo Dabi and  
9 myself.

10 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, the government offers  
11 be Government Exhibit 187.

12 MR. DeMARCO: No objection.

13 THE COURT: Received.

14 (Government's Exhibit 187 received in evidence)

15 Q. Let's start with the email at the top from  
16 CEO@CosmoDabi.com?

17 When did you receive this email

18 A. September 7.

19 Q. Do you recall receiving it?

20 A. Yes, I do.

21 Q. In this email of Mr. Cosmo -- CEO at Cosmo Dabi states, "In  
22 expedited efforts to further address your request for refund  
23 and meet your desired time lines, I will need from you a  
24 current list of all TCIS assets, status and proofs of all the  
25 assets before I can perform any more tasks related to the

1 refund request as they are related. As per the terms of our  
2 agreements, you do have obligations to properly address all  
3 reasonable required requests which are due upon demand. This  
4 information has been requested in the past but never provided.  
5 Call me any time to discuss."

6 Dr. Penland, given that at this point TCIS was seeking  
7 a refund from Mr. Cosmo and not a loan, what did you think  
8 about his request for your assets and proof of assets?

9 A. Ludicrous, irrelevant. We were well past that point.

10 Q. Because if you're not seeking any loan from him, why would  
11 he need any of that?

12 A. Why would he.

13 Q. Is that correct?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. At this point, had the school in fact actually started  
16 looking for a loan from someone else?

17 A. Oh, yes, sir.

18 Q. Let's go to page 2 of this email exchange. If you could  
19 just focus on the first paragraph to start. Sorry, the next  
20 paragraph. Starting with "I get the sense." It's in the  
21 middle of the paragraph, Mr. Lachow.

22 "I get the sense that you may have overlooked some of  
23 the irrefutable facts surrounding this investment opportunity  
24 for Cosmo Dabi in addition to your not addressing some of your  
25 cure obligations, I tend to consider client default situations

1 very seriously and have also been very patient and flexible  
2 with TCIS as well."

3 Dr. Penland, at this point did you think addressing  
4 the cure obligations was relevant under the agreement?

5 A. No, sir.

6 Q. Because you weren't seeking a loan?

7 A. I was not. We were not.

8 Q. Your school was not seeking a loan?

9 A. We were not.

10 Q. If we could look at paragraph number one on the bottom.

11 "Investment - the investment opportunity and ROI for  
12 Cosmo Dabi is at a complete loss due to TCIS actions, inactions  
13 and/or oversights."

14 Did that make any sense to you, Dr. Penland?

15 A. No, sir.

16 Q. Take a look at paragraph two.

17 "Default - TCIS is in legitimate default due to its  
18 own actions, clear misrepresentations and/or oversights."

19 Dr. Penland, did you believe TCIS had defaulted?

20 A. No, sir.

21 Q. Under your agreement, what were you entitled to if you  
22 didn't get the first draw?

23 A. The full deposit back.

24 Q. Looking at paragraph three.

25 "Refunds - I will be ready this week to have an open

1 discussion regarding your desires for refund. Please  
2 understand that the clear terms and conditions within our  
3 executed agreements allow any and all of my expenses, costs,  
4 cures, etc., be at your expense."

5 Dr. Penland, at this point, to your knowledge had  
6 Cosmo Dabi incurred any significant expenses with regard to  
7 providing you a loan?

8 A. To my knowledge, no.

9 Q. Was there a loan provided even?

10 A. There was no loan provided.

11 Q. At this point, in terms of the balance, you're minus  
12 5.5 million and Cosmo Dabi is up 5.5 million, correct, to your  
13 knowledge?

14 A. Yes. Yes.

15 Q. What did you think when you read that paragraph?

16 A. Yeah, it was unbelievable.

17 Q. Then again if we look at paragraphs five and six on the  
18 next page. Again, Mr. Cosmo refers to here "cure and assets  
19 list."

20 Dr. Penland, we've already discussed this, but at this  
21 juncture, did you think that was relevant to receiving a  
22 refund?

23 A. I did not.

24 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: One moment, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

1 Q. Dr. Penland, just a few last questions for you.

2 A. OK.

3 Q. Did TCIS ever receive any of the \$5 and a half million of  
4 its deposit back from Cosmo Dabi?

5 A. We did not.

6 Q. From William Cosmo?

7 A. Nothing.

8 Q. From any entities associated with William Cosmo?

9 A. Nothing.

10 Q. Is the school still out \$5 and a half million as of this  
11 day?

12 A. We are.

13 Q. Now, Dr. Penland, did the school ultimately successfully  
14 complete the project?

15 A. We did.

16 Q. Did you find another source of financing?

17 A. We found other Korean Christian leaders investors who came  
18 in and invested. They wanted to see the Christian tradition  
19 and the natural education --

20 MR. DeMARCO: Objection, your Honor. Relevance.

21 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, I can rephrase the  
22 question.

23 Q. My question is, did any other investors ultimately come in?

24 A. Yes, they did.

25 Q. Did they provide the funding necessary to complete the

1 project?

2 A. We had multiple investors. We chose the best investor for  
3 us, and they did totally fund all that we needed to complete  
4 the project, yes, sir.

5 Q. In connection with providing you with funding, did those  
6 investors conduct audits of your school?

7 MR. DeMARCO: Objection.

8 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Your Honor, it's certainly  
9 relevant.

10 MR. DeMARCO: It's not relevant.

11 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: It's relevant given that one of the  
12 claims is that they failed an audit, the fact that they passed  
13 a separate audit around this time.

14 THE COURT: I'll permit it. You may answer, sir. Do  
15 you have the question in mind?

16 THE WITNESS: Yes.

17 THE COURT: Go ahead.

18 A. Yes, we were audited by all the investors that were looking  
19 at our school, and we passed their audits, and we chose the  
20 best choice for our school, the parents chose.

21 Q. Now, this \$5 and a half million, would you say that that's  
22 a lot of money to your school?

23 MR. DeMARCO: Objection.

24 THE COURT: Mr. Solowiejczyk.

25 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Just the impact to the school --



1 THE COURT: Relevance?

2 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Relevance is sort of how -- what  
3 steps they had to take as a result of all of this. I can  
4 withdraw the question, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Yes.

6 BY MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK:

7 Q. Last question, Dr. Penland. Has your school ever received  
8 a loan from Cosmo Dabi or Mr. Cosmo?

9 A. No, sir, we have not.

10 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Thank you. No further questions.

11 THE COURT: All right. Let's take a five minute  
12 break, ladies and gentlemen, before we start cross-examination.  
13 See you in five.

14 (Recess)

15 THE COURT: Anything on the record, counsel?

16 MR. DeMARCO: No. Thank you, your Honor.

17 MR. BELL: Nothing from the government.

18 THE COURT: Off the record.

19 (Jury present)

20 THE COURT: We continue now with the cross-examination  
21 of Dr. Penland. Mr. DeMarco.

22 MR. DeMARCO: Thank you, your Honor. May I inquire?

23 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

24

25

1 CROSS-EXAMINATION

2 BY MR. DeMARCO:

3 Q. Good afternoon, Doctor.

4 A. Good afternoon, sir.

5 Q. I'm going to make a promise to you. My promise is, I  
6 really won't be as long as Mr. Solowiejczyk, OK?

7 A. OK, sir.

8 Q. But I want you to make a promise back to me. If you don't  
9 understand anything I ask, whether it be my Bronx accent or the  
10 form of my question, ask me to rephrase it, OK?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. OK. Now, you testified for just under a day, right?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Give or take.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And it seems to me -- I'm going to ask if you agree with  
17 this: The quest to fund this new construction project at TCIS  
18 and GSIS was shrouded by a cloud of urgency. Would you agree  
19 with that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. OK. There was an urgency to get funding, correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Because in December of 2010, the goal of TCIS and you was  
24 to have the construction completed by the fall of 2011,  
25 correct?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. OK. So you had less than a year to work with, right?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Now, you also described your dealings with Omni, Thomas  
5 Hwang -- am I pronouncing that correctly, Thomas Hwang or  
6 Hwang?

7 A. Hwang.

8 Q. And ultimately with Cosmo Dabi, as I believe the term you  
9 used was a trusting situation, correct?

10 A. I --

11 Q. At the beginning.

12 A. I believe the trusting was referring to Thomas Hwang having  
13 a family member in the organization.

14 Q. OK. We'll get to that.

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Now, I want to ask you a few questions about your  
17 background, OK?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. You have been the headmaster at TCIS since 1996, correct?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. So, in December of 2010, you were the headmaster for  
22 approximately 14 years at TCIS, correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. It was a school accredited by United States Educational  
25 Departments, correct?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. It had over 400 students, correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. From pre-K to twelfth grade, correct?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. But your experience or your work at TCIS wasn't your first  
7 work as an educator, correct?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Prior to TCIS, you were a principal at Grimsley Senior High  
10 School in North Carolina, correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. And that's the largest and oldest school in Gilbert County,  
13 North Carolina, correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And while you were the principal there, it rose to become  
16 one of the most prominent high schools in the entire state of  
17 North Carolina, correct?

18 A. It was already prominent. I don't want to say that it rose  
19 to that during my stay. I was only there three years, but we  
20 had a good three years there.

21 Q. You had a good three years. In fact, in 1995, you got the  
22 principal of the year award, correct?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. Now, you also were the headmaster at a school in Malaysia,  
25 correct?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. Was that before North Carolina or after North Carolina?

3 A. Before North Carolina.

4 Q. So before North Carolina, you were the headmaster at a  
5 school in Malaysia, correct?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. Did well there, right?

8 A. Yeah, I don't know what you mean by well, but was  
9 successful there, yes.

10 Q. You were successful. And from Malaysia, you went to North  
11 Carolina correct?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. And from North Carolina you went to South Korea, correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. TCIS, right?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. And you've been there since, right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Now, you've also served as an adjunct professor at, at  
20 least, two United States universities, correct?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. Your education, you went through with the government with  
23 Mr. Solowiejczyk. Do you remember that?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You have a master's degree from University of Georgia,

1 right?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. In Athens, Georgia, right?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. And you got your doctorate from UNC Greensboro, correct?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. I want to ask you a few questions about your

8 responsibilities as the headmaster at TCIS, OK?

9 A. OK.

10 Q. As the headmaster at TCIS, you managed the school

11 operations, correct?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. You're in charge of hiring, correct?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. You are responsible for business management, correct?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. You are responsible for the salary structure, correct?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. You manage a fairly substantial school budget, correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Employee benefits, right?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. Health plans, stuff like that? You manage that, correct?

24 A. Not directly, but I oversee people responsible for that,

25 yes.

1 Q. You oversee that?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. Now, in 2004, you were at TCIS for about eight years at  
4 that time, correct, give or take?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. The school was performing so well that the Korean  
7 government asked you to open up the sister school, correct?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. And the sister school is -- you're going to have to help me  
10 with this. GSIS, the G stands for what, Doctor?

11 A. Gyeonggi.

12 Q. The Gyeonggi Suwon International School, correct?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. Was opened at the behest of the Korean government, correct?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. To provide a similar program that you've been providing at  
17 TCIS, correct?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. The Korean government provides the land for the school,  
20 correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And in or about 2006, GSIS opens its doors, correct?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. And it becomes the sister school of TCIS, correct?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. And your title is the founder and headmaster of GSIS,  
2 correct?

3 A. GSIS, yes.

4 Q. And within a year, the school performs so well, it gets  
5 accredited by the United States Department of Education,  
6 correct?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. Now, your responsibilities as the headmaster at GSIS are  
9 similar to the responsibilities that you had as headmaster at  
10 TCIS, correct?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. Business management, right?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Hiring, correct?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Finances, correct?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Salary structure, right?

19 A. Again, not directly managing them, but overseeing it.

20 Q. You participated in the salary structure, correct? You  
21 oversaw it. Is that your testimony?

22 A. Yeah -- I don't directly do the H.R. department, but I  
23 oversee the director of business, and in that way I would  
24 oversee H.R.

25 Q. You had to manage a substantial budget there as you did



1 with the budget at TCIS, correct?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. The money, right? You oversaw the money at both schools,  
4 correct?

5 A. Yes. Not directly but oversaw it, yes.

6 Q. You were the headmaster. You were the guy in charge,  
7 right?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Now, the development of GSIS was incredibly rapid and  
10 successful, correct?

11 A. Correct, it was successful.

12 Q. In fact, it was so successful, that it was unrivaled in all  
13 of Korea, East Asia and perhaps the entire world. Isn't that  
14 correct?

15 A. I wouldn't know that, sir. It was successful.

16 Q. Incredibly successful, correct?

17 A. It was very successful.

18 Q. OK. You recruited quality administrators, correct?

19 A. I tried to.

20 Q. Quality faculty, correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. And within a short time span from its opening, GSIS was  
23 operating with a strong financial existence, correct?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. And you were the headmaster from its opening until 2011,

1 correct?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. Now, there comes a time -- I'm going to now ask you some  
4 questions about the construction project for TCIS, OK?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. There comes a time in or about 2010 that -- withdrawn.

7 TCIS was situated physically on land that had been  
8 owned by a church mission, correct?

9 A. That's correct. It was owned by a church mission, yes,  
10 sir.

11 (Continued on next page)

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1 Q. And since its existence until it moved in 2011, it was  
2 located on that land, correct?

3 A. Yes. From 1958 until.

4 Q. 2011?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. Over 50 years, correct?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. And there came a time that TCIS was -- I don't want to say  
9 evicted, but asked to leave that location, correct?

10 A. There was a dispute about the land, yes, sir.

11 Q. And some agreement was worked out whereby the adjacent  
12 university to TCIS would give you some money, correct?

13 A. There was a mediation process, yes, sir.

14 Q. And you would receive eight and a half million dollars from  
15 the university that you shared the land with, correct?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. And TCIS would have to find a new location and the location  
18 sought -- the location found was in the Techno Valley region of  
19 Suwon, correct?

20 A. Taejon.

21 Q. Taejon. I'm sorry. The Techno Valley section or region of  
22 Taejon, correct?

23 A. That's correct, sir.

24 Q. Now, at that time Thomas Hwang was the business  
25 administrator of GSIS, correct?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. And he had been in that position since roughly 2009, right?

3 A. I think so, sir. I can't be sure. I have not recalled  
4 that in a few years. I would say that's ballpark close.

5 Q. Now, money was needed to fund this new construction,  
6 correct?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Eight and a half million dollars wasn't going to do it,  
9 right?

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. You testified on direct examination that you borrowed money  
12 from a Korean financial institution. Did you say that?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. How much did you borrow in U.S. dollars from that Korean  
15 institution?

16 A. Almost 10 million.

17 Q. This was \$10 million -- 10 million United States dollars  
18 borrowed from a Korean bank. Is that fair to say?

19 A. KB, Kookmin Bank.

20 Q. Would you consider that one of the larger banks in Korea?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Eight and a half million is given to you by the university,  
23 correct?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. A good chunk of money is loaned to you by the bank,

1 correct?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. But you still need some more money, right?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. You need, in your estimation, at least \$20 million to  
6 complete that new construction in the Techno Valley, correct?

7 A. Correct. We had some cash reserves at that time that we  
8 had designated for capital as well.

9 Q. Now, at that time you knew Thomas Hwang for about 10 years,  
10 correct, more or less?

11 A. More or less, yes.

12 Q. And he became aware that this additional money was needed  
13 to fund the project, correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And you trusted Mr. Hwang, correct?

16 A. I did.

17 Q. And at the time the school was experiencing some financial  
18 difficulties. Would you agree with that?

19 A. We were stretched with the project. Other than that, we  
20 were financially fine.

21 Q. It's your testimony now that in or about December 2010 TCIS  
22 wasn't experiencing financial difficulties, Doctor?

23 A. We were aware at that point that part of our contractual  
24 agreement for the construction of the new campus with the  
25 construction company was funded -- was to be funded by the

1 construction company, and they had failed to at that point be  
2 able to deliver anything towards that funding and so we  
3 recognized that that was now doubtful and we needed to go and  
4 get another way to fund the project.

5 Q. To boil that down to two words, financial difficulties,  
6 correct?

7 A. With the project, yes, sir.

8 Q. Now, you had the money given to you by the university,  
9 correct?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. You had money loaned to you by a prominent reputable Korean  
12 bank, correct?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. You needed more money to complete the project, correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. But you didn't seek out traditional financing, did you?

17 A. No, sir.

18 Q. You didn't go to another prominent or reputable bank in  
19 South Korea or anywhere else, did you?

20 A. No, sir. The loan was a credit loan and that was the  
21 maximum that we could get with a credit loan.

22 Q. From that bank, correct?

23 A. We were not going to get one from another bank either.

24 Q. That's not my question. My question to you is, did you go  
25 to any other bank seeking the additional funds for that

1 construction?

2 A. Yes. We had discussions with banks about funding, but that  
3 wasn't possible.

4 Q. Why wasn't it possible, Dr. Penland?

5 A. We did not have collateral.

6 Q. The reason you didn't go to any other banks or the  
7 reason -- you did go to some other banks, correct?

8 A. We talked with other banks. We had limited collateral.

9 Q. So you spoke to other banks about funding the balance of  
10 the project, correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And you learned during those discussions that TCIS didn't  
13 have the necessary collateral to qualify for the money needed  
14 to finish out the project, correct?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. Traditional lending institutions such as banks were now out  
17 of the question, correct?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. What about brokerage houses, the big brokerage houses, like  
20 Morgan Stanley, things like that, did you go try that route?

21 A. We did not.

22 Q. Why didn't you?

23 A. Because Mr. Hwang came with this plan really first in  
24 September, October.

25 Q. When you learned from other banks that you couldn't get the

1 money from them, Thomas Hwang approached you with an idea,  
2 correct?

3 A. Early October, yes.

4 Q. An idea in late 2010 on how to obtain the money needed to  
5 fund the balance of the project?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. Thomas Hwang had a relative on the board of trustees,  
8 correct?

9 A. Not at that time, but in the past his wife had served on  
10 our board of trustees.

11 Q. Thomas Hwang's wife had served on TCIS's board of trustees.  
12 Is that your testimony?

13 A. As a parent representative, yes, sir.

14 Q. Do you recall the time frame when she was on the board?

15 A. I can't recall off the top of my head, sir. I am going to  
16 guess mid 2000s, 6, 7, somewhere in there.

17 Q. If his wife was on as a parent on the board, would it be  
18 fair to say that Mr. and Mrs. Hwang had a child who went to the  
19 school?

20 A. To TCIS?

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. Yes. And then went to GSIS when they were in that school.

23 Q. So you need this additional money to expand, correct?

24 A. That's correct, sir.

25 Q. Thomas Hwang was aware that you needed this money to



1 expand, correct?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. You had brought this to his attention or you learned about  
4 it from some other means, if you know?

5 A. Restate that.

6 Q. How did Thomas Hwang come to know that you needed more  
7 money?

8 A. Thomas Hwang came to know we needed more money from me and  
9 from others that we are talking about in both communities that  
10 we needed funding for the project.

11 Q. It was common knowledge --

12 A. Among the leadership team.

13 Q. You have to let me finish.

14 A. I'm sorry. Fair enough.

15 Q. Would it be fair to say it was common knowledge in the TCIS  
16 and GSIS communities that additional monies were needed to fund  
17 the project?

18 A. It was common knowledge among our board members and among  
19 our leadership team for sure.

20 Q. And would you consider Mr. Hwang to be a member of the  
21 leadership team?

22 A. He was a member of our leadership team at GSIS at that  
23 time, yes, sir.

24 Q. Now, did you consider Thomas Hwang a friend?

25 A. Sure.

1 Q. So not only was he a business associate or a colleague, he  
2 was also your friend, correct?

3 A. He was a friend, sure.

4 Q. And you trusted him, correct?

5 A. I trusted him.

6 Q. And that's why when you testified on direct examination  
7 that this was a trusting situation, this is kind of what you  
8 were referring to, correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You trusted Mr. Hwang and you trusted that he wouldn't lead  
11 you knowingly in the wrong direction. Is that fair?

12 A. Fair.

13 Q. Now, in discussing this financing with Mr. Hwang you  
14 learned of a man by the name of Jay Pak, correct?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. And you learned that Jay Pak was Mr. Hwang's  
17 brother-in-law, correct?

18 A. That's what I was told, yes.

19 Q. Was Jay Pak the brother of Mr. Hwang's wife who served on  
20 the board? Do you know?

21 A. I don't know.

22 Q. But you did learn during the course of these discussions  
23 that Jay Pak was Mr. Hwang's brother-in-law, correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And you also learned of a man by the name of William Cosme

1 or Cosmo, correct?

2 A. I did. It was Cosmo.

3 Q. You learned of the company by the name of Omni, correct?

4 A. I did.

5 Q. You learned that Jay Pak worked for Omni, correct?

6 A. You are correct.

7 Q. OmniHoldings. Was that the proper name?

8 A. OmniHoldings group I think was the name.

9 Q. I'm going to refer to them as Omni. OK, Doctor?

10 A. OK.

11 Q. You learned that Jay Pak worked for Omni, correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. A financial company or investment company located in New  
14 York City, correct?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. And there came a time, as far as you know, that Thomas  
17 Hwang informed his brother-in-law, Jay Pak, that you guys were  
18 looking for some financing, correct?

19 A. I assume that's correct, yes, sir. That's correct.

20 Q. And through Thomas Hwang you learned of an opportunity to  
21 borrow the money needed to complete the project, correct?

22 A. Potentially, yes.

23 Q. And you didn't need 55 million, correct?

24 A. No, sir.

25 Q. But was it Mr. Hwang or Mr. Pak who recommended the \$55

million loan amount?

A. Mr. Hwang told me that Omni and the investor wanted the loan to be 100 million, and I told him that was impossible. I would not get that approved. It came down to 70 million and then it came down to 55 million. My conversations were with Mr. Hwang. I never had a conversation with Mr. Pak about any of that.

Q. You agreed upon the \$55 million as the number that you would seek to borrow from the people or persons that Omni put you in contact with in New York City, is that correct?

A. That's correct.

Q. Omni would serve as the intermediary in this deal, correct?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And the person at the point of Omni who you dealt with was Patricia Tsien, correct?

A. Most of the time, yes, sir.

Q. In fact, would you agree that most of the correspondence, whether it be by e-mail, letter, face-to-face conversations, was between you and Ms. Tsien of OmniHoldings with respect to this deal?

A. With my interfacing with him?

Q. Yeah.

A. Me or all the other communications going on?

Q. You. You dealt primarily and the majority of the times with Ms. Tsien, as evidenced in all the e-mails we saw today?

1 A. Exactly. I would say with e-mails particularly and digital  
2 communication, it was through Ms. Tsien to either Thomas or to  
3 me directly and back and forth to Thomas or through me  
4 directly.

5 Q. And only very few, if any, direct correspondence that you  
6 had with Mr. Cosmo or Cosme, correct?

7 A. Direct correspondence with him was much less than  
8 Ms. Tsien.

9 Q. Significantly less, right, Doctor?

10 A. It was much less.

11 Q. I'm assuming that Mr. Hwang was excited by the prospects of  
12 finding someone who could give you this loan, correct?

13 A. Sure.

14 Q. Because getting this loan meant that the project could  
15 continue and be completed, correct?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. And everyone associated with TCIS and GSIS were anxious to  
18 get this project funded and completed, correct?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. It was an important step in the growth of TCIS. Would you  
21 agree with that?

22 A. I would agree, yes.

23 Q. Now, all that would be needed from TCIS to obtain this \$55  
24 million loan was a 10 percent deposit, correct?

25 A. 5.5 million participation deposit.

1 Q. You taught math. Do you remember that, Doctor?

2 A. Yes, I did.

3 Q. 10 percent of 55 million would be that 5.5 million,  
4 correct?

5 A. There you go. Middle school math, junior high.

6 Q. That's OK. That's as far as I go.

7 This was beautiful. This was a great deal for your  
8 school, correct?

9 A. We were happy.

10 Q. You were going to get a \$55 million loan, correct?

11 A. That's direct.

12 Q. By only putting down 10 percent, correct, right?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. And the interest rate would only be 4 percent on that loan,  
15 correct?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. What interest rate was that Korean bank charging you on the  
18 money that they had loaned you for this project?

19 A. It was a credit loan and it was 7 percent.

20 Q. We are talking a lot of money when we are talking about  
21 that sum of money, correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. You also learned through Mr. Hwang that Cosmo or Cosme had  
24 invested in South Korea prior to this, correct?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. In fact, Thomas Hwang showed you a newspaper article where  
2 Cosmo invested in Kunsang, Korea, correct?

3 A. Kunsang.

4 Q. I'm from the Bronx.

5 A. That's OK. It was also -- there was information about  
6 investment in the Lotte Group on the website.

7 THE COURT: Mr. DeMarco, may I ask you to spell that,  
8 despite being from the Bronx, for the reporter.

9 Q. Kunsang. Correct me if I am wrong, Doctor, K-u-n-s-a-n-g?

10 A. That's close enough.

11 THE COURT: Thank you.

12 Q. Also, you learned about Cosmo through Thomas Hwang and his  
13 brother-in-law, Jay Pak, correct?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. And you learned through Thomas Hwang and from others that  
16 Cosmo or Cosmo Dabi worked with investors around the world,  
17 correct?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. It was located in New York City, correct, Cosmo Dabi?

20 A. The information I had and where I went, yes, new York City.

21 Q. The information that you had was that this company that  
22 went by the name Cosmo Dabi was located on Wall Street,  
23 correct?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. In the heart of the financial center in New York, correct?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. And that this company not only invested in projects in  
3 South Korea but throughout the world, correct?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. That Cosmo Dabi was an influential global player. That's  
6 what you said on direct examination, correct?

7 A. That's what the website said.

8 Q. And that's what you believed, correct?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. Now, since you couldn't get the loan from traditional  
11 lenders, correct, it was time to be creative, right?

12 A. We were looking for lots of different ways to try to find  
13 an investor to help us with the project.

14 Q. The bank route was exhausted, correct?

15 A. That was not going to happen.

16 Q. The money from the university that was given, that was all  
17 you were going to get, correct?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. It was time for TCIS, Dr. Penland and the board of trustees  
20 of that school to come up with a creative strategy to borrow  
21 the money needed to complete that project, correct?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. And Thomas Hwang, who you trusted, and his brother-in-law,  
24 Jay Pak, who worked for Omni in New York City, came up with  
25 just a creative plan that you were looking for, right?



1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. A low-interest loan with 10 percent down, correct? Right,  
3 Doctor?

4 A. Yes, that's correct.

5 Q. And it was your understanding that within 90 days after you  
6 deposited that 10 percent or \$5.5 million, you would get your  
7 first draw on that \$5 million loan, correct?

8 A. 60. 60 business days.

9 Q. And given this air of urgency that was surrounding this  
10 project, this was a great deal, correct?

11 A. It looked that way to us, yes, sir.

12 Q. And you were anxious to make it happen, right?

13 A. We were very interested.

14 Q. Would you consider yourself to be desperate?

15 A. We needed to find a lender. I would concede that or else  
16 we were going to have to stop the project, and that had  
17 negative ramifications as well.

18 Q. You needed to find a lender and you needed to find one  
19 fast, is that correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Otherwise you would suffer the consequences, correct?

22 A. We would have to stop the project.

23 Q. You would stop the project and you said negative  
24 implications?

25 A. Yeah, sure.

1 Q. Because you just wanted to finish by the fall of 2011,  
2 correct?

3 A. We needed to relocate our campus in the best interests of  
4 the school.

5 Q. When you heard about this opportunity with Cosmo Dabi and  
6 OmniHoldings acting as the intermediary to borrow \$55 million  
7 at a 4 percent interest rate with only \$5.5 million down, you  
8 brought this plan to the board of trustees?

9 A. Eventually, yes, we did.

10 Q. You presented it to the board of trustees, which is  
11 comprised of five independent people, correct?

12 A. No, sir.

13 Q. What is incorrect about that?

14 A. There would be nine members on the board of trustees along  
15 with two parents from Suwon, when the Suwon board met, and two  
16 parents from Taejon, when the Taejon board met. The nine  
17 members were mission appointed and they served on both boards.

18 Q. I apologize.

19 A. No problem.

20 Q. So you presented this plan to the board of trustees and you  
21 were given the go-ahead to pursue it, correct? Is that fair?

22 A. They approved the agreement and moving forward with it.

23 Q. You brought it to the board of trustees before you traveled  
24 to New York City in December of 2010, right?

25 A. No, sir.

1 Q. That was after?

2 A. They knew about it. I had informed the board that we had  
3 the possibility. They knew I was going to New York that  
4 weekend of the 10th. We knew we had a board meeting on  
5 December 16 scheduled, and I would come back and make some kind  
6 of recommendation. The New York trip was sort of verifying  
7 this was the real thing.

8 Q. So it would be fair to say that before you traveled to New  
9 York in December 2010 to meet with OmniHoldings, you ran this  
10 by the board of trustees, correct?

11 A. They knew that we were talking with an asset investor and  
12 about doing a loan, yes.

13 Q. And they knew because you told them, right?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. So you ran it by them, right?

16 A. That's correct. I didn't have the details of the agreement  
17 at that point.

18 Q. I'm not saying that you did.

19 A. But they knew I was searching for a loan and searching in  
20 New York --

21 Q. They knew that in December 2010, when you were coming to  
22 New York and meeting on John Street with OmniHoldings, they  
23 knew why you were coming?

24 A. Absolutely.

25 Q. They knew you were pursuing this possibility of obtaining a

1 loan at 4 percent interest, correct?

2 A. They were missionaries. They were praying for it.

3 Q. And after meeting with OmniHoldings and Mr. Cosmo, it was  
4 your belief that your prayers have been answered, right?

5 A. I came back and encouraged the board to approve the deal.

6 Q. In your mind, your prayers had been answered, right?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Let's talk about December 2010. Let's first talk about the  
9 meeting with OmniHoldings.

10 Now, would it be fair to say that the meeting with the  
11 folks from Omni and with Mr. Cosmo at JFK, they occurred on the  
12 same day?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. You first meet with the folks from OmniHoldings at their  
15 office on John Street, correct?

16 A. Yes. I believe it was John Street.

17 Q. And for the first time you meet Jay Pak, correct?

18 A. That's correct. I had met him at the hotel in Teaneck, New  
19 Jersey the day before. The hotel over there we had met in the  
20 lobby for just like 10 minutes and had been introduced.

21 Q. And Jay Pak is part of OmniHoldings, correct?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. You would agree that for the first time at the OmniHoldings  
24 conference room you meet Patricia Tsien and Tom Cleveland for  
25 the first time, correct?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. You go into this impressive building on John Street in New  
3 York City, correct?

4 A. Not so impressive.

5 Q. I'll bet you the rents were impressive.

6 A. I don't know.

7 Q. You meet in a conference room with people from  
8 OmniHoldings, correct?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. And would it be fair to say that it's a conference room in  
11 an office building, correct?

12 A. No, sir.

13 Q. You said something about art storage going on there. Do  
14 you remember that?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. It was a conference room, right?

17 A. Sort of.

18 Q. What do you mean sort of? Was there a table?

19 A. There was a table, there were chairs around, but it was a  
20 unique environment there. I don't know how to describe it.  
21 But not as fancy as this courtroom.

22 Q. Unique in what respect, Doctor? Was there a table and  
23 chairs?

24 A. Absolutely.

25 Q. Was it heated?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Was there a carpet on the floor?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Was there a door?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did you get up there by an elevator?

7 A. No, sir. We climbed stairs.

8 Q. But you have a meeting in that conference room with

9 OmniHolding, correct?

10 A. With those people.

11 Q. Tsien?

12 A. Ms. Tsien.

13 Q. Cleveland, right?

14 A. Mr. Cleveland.

15 Q. Mr. Pak?

16 A. Mr. Pak.

17 Q. And also present are yourself?

18 A. Myself.

19 Q. Thomas Hwang?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. Anyone else?

22 A. No, sir. There was a clerk that came in and out some.

23 Q. Was it like a busy office?

24 A. No, sir.

25 Q. Now, you would agree that from the very moment you met

1 Ms. Tsien she was the person in charge?

2 A. At the meeting?

3 Q. At the meeting and every point thereafter.

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. She did most of the talking, right?

6 A. At that meeting, yes, sir.

7 Q. At that meeting you discussed your project in Taejon,  
8 correct?

9 A. We did.

10 Q. You talked about the need for investors to provide you with  
11 the funding to complete the project, correct?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. And Ms. Tsien at that meeting spoke about a Mr. Cosmo,  
14 correct?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. You learned at that meeting that Mr. Cosmo invested in  
17 Asian projects, correct?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. You also learned in your conversations with Ms. Tsien that  
20 Mr. Cosmo was an investor, right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. He was someone who dealt with currency, correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. He dealt with jewels, correct?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. He also dealt with minerals, correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And you also learned, most importantly, that Mr. Cosme was  
4 interested in giving you a loan to complete the construction  
5 project, correct?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. That's why you were there, right, Doctor?

8 A. That's why we went there.

9 Q. Now, that meeting at Omni's offices lasts one to two hours.  
10 Is that fair?

11 A. Yes. Closer to two, probably.

12 Q. You learn about Mr. Cosmo at that meeting, correct?

13 A. I learned more about him, yes.

14 Q. You talk about your needs in order to complete the project,  
15 correct?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. You talk about the goals and the mission of TCIS, correct?

18 A. Some. More at the other meeting.

19 Q. That was an important part of it, correct?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Now, you also, and correct me if I'm wrong, when you were  
22 talking with Ms. Tsien, she was concerned about the risks of  
23 investing in that project, correct?

24 A. I don't recall that.

25 Q. There came a time where she suggested Mr. Cosmo, correct?



1 A. Can you repeat that again.

2 Q. There came a time when she suggested Mr. Cosmo, correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. There came a time when you met with Mr. Cosme, correct?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. Was it December 16 you said Dr. Penland, 2010, when that  
7 you had that meeting. Do you recall?

8 A. The board meeting?

9 Q. No. The meeting at OmniHoldings.

10 A. No. It was around December 10. The board meeting was  
11 December 16.

12 Q. Instead of going to Cosmo Dabi's offices on Wall Street,  
13 you go to the departure lounge at JFK Airport after that  
14 meeting, correct?

15 A. Yeah. It wasn't a departure lounge. It was premier member  
16 lounge.

17 Q. Call it what you want. It's where people wait before they  
18 depart on flights, correct?

19 A. Not everyone can go there. It's a private club.

20 Q. Within the airport, correct?

21 A. Yes. American Airlines admiral lounge area.

22 Q. You don't meet in an office building, correct?

23 A. No, sir.

24 Q. You don't meet in a conference room in a walk-up anywhere,  
25 correct?

1 A. No, sir.

2 Q. You meet in the executive lounge at the American Airlines  
3 terminal at JFK, correct?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. When you met with the Korean bank that loaned you the  
6 money, did you meet with them in the executive lounge of an  
7 airport?

8 A. No, sir.

9 Q. Where did you meet the bank reps? Kookmin Bank, was that  
10 the name of the bank?

11 A. Kookmin Bank.

12 Q. Where did you meet with them when you discussed financing  
13 the construction project?

14 A. In my office, in my conference room.

15 Q. In your conference room, right.

16 Now, you arrive at the American Airlines terminal at  
17 JFK, correct?

18 A. Yeah. It was a terminal at JFK that served American  
19 Airlines.

20 Q. And I believe it was your testimony on direct examination  
21 you have to talk your way into this executive lounge?

22 A. They had gotten preclearance for us because we didn't have  
23 boarding passes and to get back into that area you needed  
24 preclearance. So Ms. Tsien or someone had arranged for us to  
25 get back there, so we had to go through security that way.

1 Q. So you ultimately find your way into that lounge, correct?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. You order your hors d'oeuvres, correct?

4 A. Someone did.

5 Q. You get a couple of sodas, right?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. There comes a time when Mr. Cosmo shows up?

8 A. He does.

9 Q. How long are you waiting in that lounge before he shows up?

10 A. 20 to 30 minutes.

11 Q. Once he arrives, it's Mr. Cosmo, right, you, correct?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. Ms. Tsien is still there, correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. Mr. Pak?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Mr. Cleveland?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And who am I leaving out?

20 A. Mr. Hwang.

21 Q. You have this meeting in the lounge, correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you discuss the project, correct?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. Now, the purpose of that meeting, in your mind, was to meet

1 this Cosmo guy, right?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. And to see if he actually existed. Is that a fair  
4 statement?

5 A. That was one of the objectives, yes, sir.

6 Q. And the final and most important objective, if he existed,  
7 was to convince him to invest in your project, right?

8 A. That was an objective, yes, sir.

9 Q. Now, you would have been given a pep talk by Ms. Tsien and  
10 Mr. Cleveland about dealing with Mr. Cosme, right?

11 A. I had.

12 Q. Remain positive, right?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. And your testimony was to sell your philanthropic work. Do  
15 you remember saying that on your direct examination?

16 A. Highlight it, sell it.

17 Q. In fact, that's what you did. You remained positive,  
18 right?

19 A. I did.

20 Q. And you sold the TCIS school for its philanthropic and  
21 other work, correct?

22 A. Yes. I let them -- that was the highlight of my  
23 discussion, my conversation.

24 Q. I believe you testified on direct examination that that  
25 meeting lasted approximately an hour, maybe a little bit

1 longer?

2 A. About an hour, I think. It was shorter than the other  
3 meeting.

4 Q. And during that meeting you talked about TCIS, right?

5 A. I did.

6 Q. You described its history to Mr. Cosme, correct?

7 A. To some extent, yes.

8 Q. You described the mission statement of the school, correct?

9 A. I did.

10 Q. And you also talked about your background, correct?

11 A. Talked about my background?

12 Q. Yes.

13 A. To some extent, yes.

14 Q. There was a little discussion had about investments,  
15 correct?

16 A. Not that much.

17 Q. Very little, right?

18 A. Not much.

19 Q. You go to meet this man in the executive lounge in an  
20 effort to borrow \$55 million, correct?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. And there is not much talk about investments, correct?

23 A. Not at that meeting.

24 Q. At that meeting it was agreed upon or decided that you  
25 would enter into an agreement whereby TCIS would borrow \$55

1 million, correct?

2 A. Yes. We borrow 49.5 and we would put down a 5.5 million  
3 deposit.

4 Q. The 49.5 plus the 5.5?

5 A. Is 55.

6 Q. At a very good interest rate, 4 percent, correct?

7 A. That was attractive to us.

8 Q. No prepayment penalty, which was very important to you,  
9 correct?

10 A. Very important to us.

11 Q. And you understood that nothing would happen with respect  
12 to the loan being funded until at least 60 days after the \$5.5  
13 million was wired to Mr. Cosmo, correct?

14 A. Yes, sir. We understood that.

15 Q. You also understood that the reason you were getting this  
16 very competitive interest rate was because the school's mission  
17 was philanthropic or religious, correct? That was one of the  
18 reasons, correct?

19 A. According to him, he wanted to help a school, help  
20 education, help a Christian institution. That was his interest  
21 area. It wasn't just a business deal.

22 Q. I'm getting there. I'm just thinking of the question.  
23 This is an important phase in the history of TCIS. Would you  
24 agree with that, the new construction project?

25 A. Yes, sir, I would agree with that.

1 Q. You are considering investing or depositing \$5.5 million  
2 into the accounts of someone you just met at the airport,  
3 correct?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. And it would be fair to say you did not ask Cosmo a lot of  
6 questions, right?

7 A. I did not.

8 Q. Because he had learned from Ms. Tsien that Mr. Cosme was  
9 very sensitive, right?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. So rather than offend him and risk blowing this wonderful  
12 deal, you asked him very little questions, correct, very few  
13 questions, right?

14 A. That's correct.

15 MR. DeMARCO: Tim, could you put up Government Exhibit  
16 107.

17 Q. Why don't you look at what's in evidence as Government's  
18 Exhibit 107, Doctor.

19 A. Sure.

20 Q. That's an e-mail that you received from Thomas Hwang dated  
21 Saturday, December 4, 2010, correct?

22 A. I can't see it yet. It's not on this screen.

23 Q. Sorry, Doctor.

24 A. Can you make it larger. Yes, I can see it.

25 Q. It's an e-mail you received from Mr. Hwang on December 4,

1 2010, correct?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. And in that e-mail is the website to Cosmodabi.com,  
4 correct?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. You received that e-mail at least -- is it about a week  
7 before you come to New York?

8 A. It's just a few days before the meeting.

9 Q. So you have the website information in your possession  
10 before you go out to that meeting, correct?

11 A. I didn't print it out, but, yes, I had been on the site.

12 Q. You went to the site when you received that e-mail?

13 A. I did.

14 Q. You went to the site before you visited with the folks in  
15 New York City. Is that what you are saying?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. Would it be fair to say that you relied predominantly on  
18 Pat Tsien, Jay Pak, and Thomas Hwang as the references for  
19 Cosmo Dabi? Would that be a fair statement?

20 A. It was a combination of the information from the website,  
21 the information from those parties that I was relying on, and  
22 certainly Thomas Hwang and his family relationship was a strong  
23 piece of that.

24 Q. A strong piece of it was Mr. Hwang's family relationship,  
25 correct?



1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Another piece was the word or the meeting you had with  
3 Ms. Tsien and Mr. Cleveland, correct?

4 A. That was later, after I got to New York. I didn't really  
5 have an impression of them until that meeting. They were  
6 articulate in the meeting and seemed bright.

7 Q. But it would be fair to say that before coming to New York  
8 City and also after leaving New York City, you had access to  
9 the Cosmo Dabi website, correct?

10 A. I did, yes, sir.

11 Q. I believe it was your testimony on direct examination that  
12 you went through that website carefully, correct?

13 A. I went through it multiple times. I recall very clearly  
14 the first time actually hitting it and going through every page  
15 of it. I went through it multiple times.

16 Q. Do you recall whether you had gone through it before  
17 meeting with Mr. Cosmo in the airport?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. You had?

20 A. Several times.

21 Q. Now, I want to ask you a few questions about that website  
22 now. OK?

23 A. OK.

24 MR. DeMARCO: Mr. Lachow, will you pull up  
25 Government's Exhibit 108, please.

1 Q. I am going to direct you to Government's Exhibit 108, Dr.  
2 Penland. OK?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You saw that on direct examination, right?

5 A. I did.

6 Q. And you also saw that in December of 2010, correct?

7 A. Yes. Can you make it larger?

8 Q. I am going to have him do that. Bear with me.

9 A. Thank you.

10 MR. DeMARCO: Sam, if you could pull out --

11 Q. This is page 1, right, Doctor?

12 A. The one there, yes.

13 Q. I asked Mr. Lachow to pull out some writing that's on the  
14 first page of that website. Can you read to the jury what Mr.  
15 Lachow has pulled out and what is on the first page of the  
16 Cosmo Dabi website.

17 A. Can I read?

18 Q. Please, Doctor.

19 A. Activities. Cosmo Dabi primarily engages in business  
20 consulting and in physical gold transactions. We are not a  
21 bank, hedge fund, RIA, or a registered securities firm. Our  
22 core focus primarily serves our family members.

23 Q. We are not a bank, correct?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. We are not a hedge fund, correct?

1 A. That's what it says.

2 Q. We are not an RIA, right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Do you know what an RIA is?

5 A. I don't.

6 Q. And they are not a registered securities firm. That's on  
7 the very first page, correct?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Did that raise any questions in your mind about giving \$5.5  
10 million to Cosmo Dabi?

11 A. No, sir.

12 MR. DeMARCO: Mr. Lachow, can you go back to the first  
13 page.

14 Q. I asked Mr. Lachow to pull out another section of page 1 of  
15 Government's Exhibit 108.

16 Dr. Penland, this is on the first page of the website  
17 also?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. Can you read what Mr. Lachow has just pulled up on the  
20 screen from the website.

21 A. What we are not. We are not a bank, a registered licensed  
22 securities firm, or hedge fund.

23 Q. On the first page, on two different spots, there is  
24 representations that Cosmo Dabi is not a bank, right?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Not a hedge fund, correct?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Not a licensed securities firm, correct?

4 A. That's what it says, yes.

5 Q. On the very first page, Doctor, correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You've been managing budgets for over 15 years at that  
8 point, correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You had just been turned down by banks to fund the balance  
11 of that project for TCIS, correct?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. And on the very first page of this website, are these two  
14 representations, correct?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Did you think about or have any questions about these  
17 representations?

18 A. I thought he was an asset manager and dealing in  
19 commodities.

20 Q. But it said on the very first page of the website that you  
21 examined thoroughly, we are not a bank?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. We are not a hedge fund?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. We are not a registered securities firm, correct?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. Did you think of bringing that up to Ms. Tsien during the  
3 meeting at Omni, what does this mean?

4 A. No, sir.

5 Q. Did you think of asking Mr. Cosmo that at the airport  
6 lounge before you agreed to wire \$5.5 million?

7 A. I did not bring it up there, no, sir.

8 Q. You had that meeting in New York City on what date,  
9 December --

10 A. Around December 10.

11 Q. December 10, 2010, correct?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. And the \$5.5 million was wired to the JP Morgan Chase  
14 account for Cosmo Dabi on January 21 of 2011, correct?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. Between December 10, 2010 and January 21, 2011, did these  
17 two representations make you skeptical about who you were  
18 giving your money to?

19 A. No, not really.

20 Q. No. Because in your mind your prayers had been answered,  
21 right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You're getting \$55 million or \$49.5 million with no  
24 collateral at a 4 percent interest rate, correct?

25 A. With a 5.5 million deposit.

1 Q. That's right. This is a great deal for you guys, right?

2 A. If it worked out it was going to be great.

3 Q. If it worked out?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 MR. DeMARCO: If you can go to page 2 of the website.

6 If you can pull up Cosmo Dabi International, that project about  
7 CDI.

8 Q. You're with me, Doctor?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Let's review it together. Cosmo Dabi International is  
11 primarily a family practice with an internationally  
12 headquartered parent. Our main focus is private equity, family  
13 global private wealth, asset management for our own family  
14 members, SF and business consulting. Cosmo Dabi also engages  
15 the highest caliber financial operatives within the U.S. and  
16 abroad to accomplish desired family business objectives. I am  
17 going to go on. Cosmo Dabi and companies manage \$11 billion  
18 plus AUM, assets under management, of family U.S. and Swiss  
19 assets. You see that, right, Doctor?

20 A. I do.

21 Q. You're with me?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Did you ever reach out to any of the companies that Cosmo  
24 Dabi did business with or represented that they did business  
25 with on the website?

1 A. No, sir.

2 Q. Did you ever ask him during that meeting in the airport,  
3 before agreeing to wire \$5.5 million, Mr. Cosmo, can you give  
4 me some references? Did you ever ask him for references?

5 A. No, sir. We did ask later.

6 Q. Did you ever ask Mr. Cosmo the names of any companies,  
7 financial or otherwise, that he did business with in order for  
8 you to conduct some due diligence into his company?

9 A. No, sir.

10 Q. Let's go to page 3 of the web page, of the website.

11 MR. DeMARCO: If you can pull out, references, Mr.  
12 Lachow, the section that says references.

13 Q. It says on page 3 of this website: References. To be  
14 provided upon formal engagement. You see that, right, Doctor?

15 A. I do.

16 Q. Now, there came a time that you entered into a formal  
17 engagement with Cosmo Dabi, correct?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. You signed the agreement that we saw in court earlier,  
20 right?

21 A. I did.

22 Q. And you signed that before you wired the money to his  
23 account, correct?

24 A. I did, yes.

25 Q. After you signed that agreement or at any time prior to

1 sending that \$5.5 to his JP Morgan Chase account, did you ask  
2 for any references to be provided by him?

3 A. I did not.

4 Q. Did you ever check with any regulatory agency, such as the  
5 SEC or the commodities future exchange commission or any  
6 agency, about Cosmo Dabi?

7 A. I did not.

8 Q. Did you ever even call the Better Business Bureau and ask  
9 about them?

10 A. I did not.

11 Q. Again, this was a situation of trust, right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You trusted Mr. Hwang, correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And you trusted his brother-in-law, Jay Pak, correct?

16 A. Yes. I trusted Mr. Cosmo.

17 Q. Let's go to page, it's Bates stamp 1126 of the website.

18 There is a bio section. You see that. Did you ever check with  
19 any of these companies or seek a reference from any of these  
20 companies on William Cosmo or Cosme or Cosmo Dabi or anything  
21 like that?

22 A. No, sir.

23 MR. DeMARCO: If you can go to page 1129. Right  
24 underneath transaction requirements. Can you pull that out,  
25 contractual agreements and the line underneath it.



1 Q. It reads: Cosmo Dabi holds an international commercial  
2 gold refinery license as well as major refinery agreements  
3 globally. Do you see that, Doctor?

4 A. Read that again, please.

5 Q. It's right under transactional requirements.

6 A. Yes, I see it.

7 Q. Did at any point you ask to see his commercial gold  
8 refinery license?

9 A. No, sir.

10 Q. Did you ever look into any of his major refinery agreements  
11 globally?

12 A. No, sir.

13 Q. You spoke earlier also on that website of some news article  
14 about Cosmo's investment in the Lotte Group. Do you recall  
15 that?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Are you familiar with the Lotte Group, based on your  
18 residence in South Korea?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Are they reputable?

21 A. Yes, they are.

22 Q. Have you ever done dealings with them?

23 A. No, not really dealings, but they are one of the tables or  
24 top 10 companies in Korea. They are a huge Korean company.

25 Q. Did you ever reach out to them to verify what was

1 represented in this news article?

2 A. I did not.

3 Q. We heard stuff about princes and kings and sheiks and  
4 publicly trading CEOs, companies of publicly trading CEOs. Do  
5 you recall that?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Did you ever ask for the name of a prince, a sheik, or a  
8 king who Cosmo Dabi provided services to?

9 A. We asked at one point for references and Patricia Tsien  
10 offered that or said that that was available. But we never  
11 followed up. We never checked on it.

12 Q. You had never followed up because you were concerned that  
13 had that request gotten back to Mr. Cosmo, he would have torn  
14 up the deal, correct? He would have backed out of the deal,  
15 right?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. Without going through Ms. Tsien or anyone associated or  
18 participating in this deal, did you ever do a simple Google  
19 search of William Cosmo, Cosmo Dabi, or anything related?

20 A. I did some.

21 Q. What did you learn?

22 A. It was confusing times. The names and different companies.  
23 Particularly with Omni, there are many, many different Omni  
24 groups.

25 Q. I'm talking about Cosmo Dabi or William Cosme or William

1 Cosmo.

2 A. Not so much. I did more on Omni.

3 Q. Even your research on Omni was confusing, correct?

4 A. At times it was, yes.

5 Q. So you don't find much on Cosmo Dabi?

6 A. Not much.

7 Q. What you find on Omni is confusing, correct?

8 A. Part of it was.

9 Q. And you're still anxious to go ahead with this deal, right?

10 A. We talked about it, Mr. Hwang and I, and he felt and we  
11 felt that it was OK.

12 Q. There came a time in January 2011 when you received an  
13 e-mail from Pat Tsien that contained some corporate filings by  
14 Cosmo Dabi. Do you recall that? We can pull that up. It's  
15 Government's Exhibit 137.

16 A. Yeah. I'd like to see it.

17 Q. You're with me. It says last: I have attached the  
18 business registration information --

19 THE COURT: Slowly.

20 MR. DeMARCO: I'm trying to finish by 5.

21 THE COURT: We have plenty of time. We can stop at 5  
22 and come back tomorrow.

23 Q. Are you with me, Doctor?

24 A. Yes, I am there.

25 Q. Lastly, I have attached the business registration

1 information from New York State for Cosmo Dabi International  
2 Group, Inc. 137A, if you can pull that up, Mr. Lachow. That  
3 was the filing from Cosmo Dabi with the Department of State.

4 Do you recall seeing that on direct examination,  
5 Doctor?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. Do you recall seeing that in January 2011?

8 A. Yes, I did.

9 Q. Now, the e-mail that you received with this information was  
10 on January 19, 2011, correct?

11 A. That's correct. I don't have it before me, but I am going  
12 to take your word on that.

13 Q. I don't want you to guess. I don't want to put words in  
14 your mouth.

15 MR. DeMARCO: Mr. Lachow, the date portion of 137.

16 A. January 19, 2011.

17 Q. And attached to this e-mail was 137A, which was the filing  
18 with the Department of State by Cosmo Dabi, correct?

19 A. That was one of the attachments, yes.

20 Q. We agree that it's on December 19, 2011, correct?

21 A. January 19.

22 Q. What did I say?

23 A. You said December.

24 Q. I meant January.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Now, you received these on January 19, 2011, correct?

2 A. Yes, I did.

3 Q. And the money is wired, the \$5.5 million is wired to the  
4 accounts at Cosmo Dabi two days later, on January 21, correct?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. Now, you first meet with Mr. Cosme on December 10, 2010,  
7 correct?

8 A. Yes, that's correct.

9 Q. And he is the principal, in your mind, of this company  
10 that's going to loan you \$49.5 million, right?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. And on January 19, 2011, two days before you wire that \$5.5  
13 million, you receive 137A, correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And you reviewed it, correct?

16 A. I looked at it, yes, sir.

17 MR. DeMARCO: If you can pull up the initial filing  
18 date, Mr. Lachow.

19 Q. You see the initial filing date of Cosmo Dabi International  
20 Trading Group was May 19, 2010. Do you see that, Doctor?

21 A. I see it, yes.

22 Q. Did that raise a question in your mind how this company  
23 established a mere seven months before your meeting at the  
24 airport was capable of investing and accumulating this much  
25 wealth in such a short period of time. Did that ever enter

1 your mind?

2 A. No, sir.

3 Q. Attached to that e-mail was also a letter 137B, Dr.

4 Penland. It was a letter from -- purports to be from

5 Mr. Cosmo.

6 MR. DeMARCO: Can you pull that up, Mr. Lachow.

7 Q. It speaks about instructions for wiring the \$5.5 million,  
8 correct?

9 A. It said it was attached with the wiring instructions.

10 Q. And in the second paragraph, second sentence it reads: You  
11 will have ample opportunity to inquire of my asset management  
12 performance. Did you ever do that prior to sending out any of  
13 the money?

14 A. We did not.

15 Q. Did you ever do that before, let's say, July or August of  
16 2011?

17 A. No, sir.

18 Q. When you had not received that first draw in what you  
19 considered a timely fashion?

20 A. No, sir.

21 Q. Did you ever start reaching out to references to see what  
22 this company was about?

23 A. No, we did not.

24 Q. Did you ever reach out to any regulatory agencies to see  
25 what was up with the company? Is it trustworthy? Did you ever

1 do any of that?

2 A. No, sir. I wanted to reach out to legal authorities, law  
3 enforcement in June, but --

4 Q. You were dissuaded from doing so by the board of trustees,  
5 correct?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. Because the board of trustees, like you at one point, were  
8 anxious to fund this project, correct?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. And anything that might jeopardize this funding was  
11 dissuaded by the board of trustees, correct?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Now, on direct examination you testified about receiving a  
14 corporate resolution from Cosmo Dabi. Do you recall that?

15 A. Yes.

16 MR. DeMARCO: We will pull it up. It's 154B.

17 A. I recall it.

18 Q. I'm going to have it pulled up.

19 A. Yes.

20 MR. DeMARCO: And if you can pull up, Mr. Lachow, the  
21 entirety of paragraph 3.

22 Q. On this corporate resolution that you received there lists,  
23 in addition to Mr. Cosmo, three corporate officers. Do you see  
24 that?

25 A. I do.

1 Q. One is vice-president Shirley Golberger. You see that?

2 A. I see it.

3 Q. Secretary Hi Feingold. You see that?

4 A. I do.

5 Q. And the treasurer was Scott Lieberman, CFO. Do you see  
6 that?

7 A. I did.

8 Q. At any point in time from December 2010 until September of  
9 2011, did you do any research or rely in any way upon any of  
10 these names in making your decision?

11 A. No, sir.

12 Q. Did you ever Google the name Shirley Golberger, Hi  
13 Feingold, or Scott Lieberman?

14 A. No, sir.

15 Q. Did you ever reach out and contact any of these individuals  
16 at any point in time in your efforts to get this \$55 million?

17 A. No, I did not.

18 Q. Did you ever rely on those names for any reason whatsoever?

19 A. No.

20 Q. It didn't really matter to you who the vice-president of  
21 the company was when you received this, correct?

22 A. No, it did not.

23 Q. Didn't matter who the secretary of the company was,  
24 correct?

25 A. No.



1 Q. It didn't really matter who the treasurer was either,  
2 right?

3 A. No.

4 Q. What mattered was, you were depositing \$5.5 million as a  
5 down payment or a deposit towards a \$49.5 million loan, right?

6 A. And the president, Mr. Cosmo.

7 Q. Now, \$5.5 million was a lot of money, right?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. It is a lot of money?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. It was a lot of money that TCIS didn't even have?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. In fact, TCIS had to borrow the money from GSIS, right?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. Did at any point in time you ask Mr. Cosmo, at any point in  
16 time, what are you going to do with this \$5.5 million, what are  
17 you going to invest it in?

18 A. Did I ask him directly?

19 Q. Yeah.

20 A. No, sir.

21 Q. Did you ever ask Pat Tsien, what is he going to invest this  
22 money in? Were you curious?

23 A. We talked about some of that at the meeting in New York.

24 Q. And in that one-hour meeting on December 10, 2010, you  
25 talked about where he was going to invest this money?

1 A. The kind of things that he invested in, yes, sir.

2 Q. Specifically with respect to this money.

3 A. The assumption of the conversation was about that money,  
4 but about all that he did with his money and funds. But we did  
5 not specifically say, is he going to do this with the money.

6 Q. Did you ask her, what are you going to do with this money?  
7 Where is it going to go?

8 A. Not specifically, no.

9 Q. Now, after your New York trip you returned to South Korea,  
10 correct, obviously?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. How much time did you spend? Do you recall when you  
13 returned to South Korea?

14 A. It was the day after the meeting. I think the flight left  
15 the next day.

16 Q. Would it be fair to say that your return, at the earliest,  
17 to South Korea on December 11, 2010?

18 A. Yes. I would say that would be a very accurate date,  
19 probably. Maybe the 12th because you lose a day flying.

20 Q. Within a few days after, within five or six days after your  
21 return to South Korea, this deal was approved by the board of  
22 trustees, correct. Hooray. The e-mail went out hooray. Do  
23 you recall that?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. From December 10 to less than a week later, this deal was

1 discussed, vetted, presented, and approved by the board of  
2 trustees, correct?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. Now, we saw in evidence the agreement that you ultimately  
5 signed to memorialize this transaction, correct?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. It was Government's Exhibit 190?

8 MR. DeMARCO: Government's Exhibit 190. Mr. Lachow,  
9 if you could pull up just the first page of it.

10 Q. That's the agreement that you ultimately signed that  
11 memorialized this transaction, correct?

12 A. Is that the signed copy or not?

13 Q. Let's go to the last page. I believe it is. But let's go  
14 to the last page. It's page 17 of 18. Yes, it is the signed  
15 copy.

16 A. Yes, it is.

17 Q. Now, it's dated January 19 of 2011, correct?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Is that the date you signed it?

20 A. Go back to the back and that will give you the date. I  
21 think the signature back there has the date on it.

22 Q. It doesn't. Yes, it is. I'm sorry. On page 17, the very  
23 first few lines.

24 A. Yes. January 19.

25 Q. That's more than a month after you met with Mr. Cosme,

1 correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you recall when in relation to signing this agreement  
4 that you actually received it?

5 A. I am not sure I can answer that for sure.

6 Q. How about you estimate. How long was it on your desk  
7 before you executed it?

8 A. There are different versions and so I'm not sure on this  
9 one when I received it.

10 Q. Let me --

11 A. -- without looking through my e-mail.

12 Q. Do you recall approximately when you received the very  
13 first version?

14 A. Yes. We signed an agreement with those documents -- I  
15 signed that and sent that in with client information, my  
16 passport information, on December 25, 24.

17 Q. You sent it to whom?

18 A. To Patricia Tsien.

19 Q. The final agreement was dated January 19 and signed by you  
20 on January 19, correct?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. Between the date that you first received any version of  
23 this agreement until signing the final version that we are  
24 talking about now, did you ever bring it to one of your lawyers  
25 to review it?

1 A. No, sir, I did not have a lawyer review it.

2 Q. Do you have any lawyers on your board?

3 A. No. We did have one lawyer in Suwon appearing.

4 Q. Did you ever e-mail the document to that parent and ask him  
5 to do you a favor and review this agreement?

6 A. I did talk with her about it, but very, very late in June.

7 Q. June of?

8 A. 2011.

9 Q. It's already been signed and submitted by then?

10 A. Yes. They saw the document, but not --

11 Q. What I'm asking you, Doctor --

12 A. No lawyer reviewed it.

13 Q. Before signing the final version on January 19 of --

14 A. Did I have legal review, no.

15 Q. Did you bring it to a lawyer's office? Did you retain  
16 counsel? Did you have any --

17 A. I did not.

18 Q. You did not. OK.

19 Now, you talked about presenting it to a couple of  
20 CPAs. Do you recall that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Were they CPAs that were retained by TCIS or just --

23 A. One was a personal friend and one was a board member.

24 Q. And let's talk about the board member who has an interest  
25 in this school, correct?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. Did the board member review this agreement, board member's  
3 CPA?

4 A. I believe so.

5 Q. When?

6 A. In January.

7 Q. You signed it on January 19. In relation to when you  
8 signed it, when was it reviewed by that board member?

9 A. I am not sure he reviewed this actual agreement. I know he  
10 reviewed the first agreement, the first draft of the agreement.

11 Q. And like the others on the board he was anxious to get this  
12 construction funding finished, right?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. What about your friend who is the CPA, did he or she review  
15 the document?

16 A. I don't know if he got the final draft or not, but he did  
17 review a draft of it, yes.

18 MR. DeMARCO: This might be a good time --

19 THE COURT: This is a good time. We are going to have  
20 to come back for redirect anyway.

21 Ladies and gentlemen, we are going to let you go out  
22 into the cold now. If you've been keeping notes, would you  
23 leave your notebooks in the jury room, please.

24 Remember, please, do not discuss the case with anyone.  
25 Do not allow anyone to talk with you about the case. You see

1 any of the people involved in the case, run the other way.  
2 And, most importantly, please don't do any research about the  
3 case.

4 Your coffee will be ready for you at 9:30. We look  
5 forward to seeing you tomorrow and thank you for your  
6 attention. Have a good evening. Please stay warm.

7 (Jury not present)

8 THE COURT: Anything else on the record, counsel?

9 MR. BELL: Not from the government, your Honor.

10 (Adjourned to March 16, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.)  
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